SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 337 a

Autobiography of Susanna Cole Liddell,
Union Village, Ohio

Pages 1-65

Susanna the Shakeress

When the night had closed in Susanna's fair home
And no streaming rays from the skies airy dome
Transmitted their glow through the darkness below
And 'neath the dense veil could no imagery show
When the weather vanes twirl'd with the breeze arm in arm
In emblems of rooster and cow of the farm
Though blank on her sight were their tireless play
For the ebony clouds that stood in the way
 The tramping of horse in heard in the stable
The sheep folded in as babes of the cradle
The squealing of pigs or the moaning of cows
The daintiest slumberer could not arouse
The fowls and the pigeons they too were now still
All animal life seemed tranquil of will
No opening of latch nor step in the hall
Disturbed this silence that reign'd over all
 Amid this still'd hush her thoughts entered flight
Careering beyond and in loftier sight
Though oft she tried to recall them amain
Till she was exhausted by effortless aim
There seemed a something preventing her say
Decoying her senses in fathomless way
Unconscious becoming of all earthly care
Her mother then came and she knew not from where
 The card of Susanna's she held in her hand
(With names of Officials who were in command)
From State Indiana the county of Clay
Address'd by the Clerk in the finest display
'Twas John W Ecret a man of the law
Her mother selected Susanna she saw
Then with penetration reviewed intent
Emotions of trust from her countenance went

Susanna's 3rd Second visit of her mother

She opens the record embrac'd in her hold
That tells of events the new and the old
And page after page of her book she now turns
Portraying the things that her daughter discerns
And others which mem'ry had fail'd to retain
Bear line on her record her time to remain
Or till the last farthing of wrong be retrac'd
Then from her life's journal it should be eras'd.

First picture in the book

She stands by her husband as true as the dove
His stronger protection her soul seems to move
Hopes ecstatic joy bears her thoughts on its wing
And soareth where the blissful elements sing
But time calms these raptures adown to adore
Delighting to serve comes her mood more and more
And blesses her toil in full every day
In her small domain where is given her way

Second picture in the mother's book

The young father rises his manhood is bright
His bosom's ejecting a clear warming light
The arms of his first born are hung on his neck
Her kisses bedewing that he does not check
She clings to her father whenever he is near
And thinks him the most in all the world dear
These childhood caresses do well suit his vein
Relaxing his thoughts from the wild horses rein

(The father's name was Isaac and he had been raised to breaking horses and preparing them for sale And up to this period made his living mostly in this way He was very active and horses that he broke were said to be always gentle and would not easily scare)

For Isaac was fleetest on horses' back said
Throughout all this country then so it was said
And that tim'rous colt on which he first bounded
And o'er field and forest in swift speed sounded
Their light hoofs inuring to discipline's game
The best horses made and easiest to tame
The first born has grown to pick flowers that drop
The girl that is hired intends this to stop
And ministers vengeance which makes it to dance
When scream after scream of O Betsey +++++
The father in hastens who takes up the child
And walks in the yard where the weather is mild
The cheek of the mother is coloring to rose
But true to her nature does not interpose
This dark bird had come on division to feed
As dark birds do come to the crib in their greed
The father beguil'd by the evil birds sway
By her was ensnared and borne far away
Where the smiles of his children ceas'd on his eye
And the moods of the mother he cannot descry
His soul panteth then for his home and its care
The evil bird planned he should not go there
To share in his future she was as intent
As on Sampson's strength fair Deliah was bent
But he did return to the green wooded wild
Where his little ones and their mother had smil'd o
At hearing his step coming in at the door
And wished the same to meet now as afore
The bird flieth over and 'lights on his hands
And upon his comforts she makes her demands
Till back she retakes him to her gloomy shade
Which she has so darkly and so wily made

The father now gone whom the mother ador'd
Her four little children in anguish explor'd
For how can she feed them and get them along
This is her anguish her sorrowful song
On work she knows well that she must depend
And her little ones alone must attend
And the Saviour's sufferings comes in a host
And he who denied him she sees vow'd the most
From friends she gets work with the needle to do
And two pair of pants in a day she would sew
Including the piece that she took from the night
And these oft for gentlemen six feet in height
And long woolen rolls on the big wheel she spun
From the rising of morn to the setting of sun
For three while runs fast her reel cracked the lay
In many a rainy and clear summer's day
And flax in the winter her fingers do ply
Pulling its fibers from the wound distaff high
Oft sprinkling her dress with the tears from her eyes
The while she is spinning and heaving sad sighs
This brings in the children who hurriedly press
Around their dear mother and try to caress
Till she must divide them one from the other
Their kind little arms and crowding do smother

(Now Wiley the mother's oldest brother built for himself and family a frame house in sight of the log house his former home. And when moved into the new house, he hitched up his large covered country wagon and came to move his sister and her children into the dwelling he had vacated for she suffered intensely with fear in the woods without any near neighbor She would now live on a road between two of her brothers Wiley took the bedding and the mother and children in his wagon He loved children and told them stories along the way His sons followed behind with the remaining property)

Now Wiley the uncle has changed his home
And with his strong team to the mother does come
And moves her to where his old buildings rear
That she being conscious her brothers are near
Might somewhat assuage her forebodings of fear
The voice of the screech owl not seem so drear
Nor start at the fall of a bough on the hill
Nor screams of the water-fowls' echoings shrill

The mother's musings at starting on the way

"In this forest cleared where Isaac home made
Which we are departing wholesome is the glade"
She says to herself while memories parade
And enters the wagon 'neath covering shade
But lingers her look on the leaving expanse
The vibrating sunbeams recede and advance.
"Those days" she now ponders "as they rose and set
Were bright and as rich as my eyes ever met
"The untiring labour of Isaac there fed
Ourselves and our children with fullness of bread
And every prospective want in the future
Had promise begun in unblemish'd feature
And the summer's emerald in canopïed scope
Was verdant and fair as our castles of hope
"As the antelopes' whisk from ledge unto ledge
Or skips o'er precipitous dangerous edge
So Isaac on horse sped from table to rills
Of the gentlely mountainous clay soil hills
But now like as sound on aerial breeze
Or the preluding storm that breaks through the trees
So Isaac's voice seemeth to come on my ear
With something prophetic 'twould chill me to hear"

Here Wiley now points to his old home he sees
The children are catching a glimse through the trees
He's told them of many strange things on the road
Of persons and places and rivers to ford
The mother she says when a pause intervenes
"Faith, home bound to us will be various scenes
And two of your uncles we will live between"
Then tenderly look'd on the baby to wean
The uncle now lifted them out one by one
Then opens the door and the children in run
The days longest shadows are quivering slow
And faintly are spanning the streamlet below
That boundeth the yard of their new domicile
Where duck and the hovering geese droppeth quill

(In the year 1832 Edward a brother of Susanna's mother who lived in Cincinnati came to tell his sister that Isaac talked of taking his children in a few weeks or at least the two oldest Susanna and Silas This tidings seemed upon her like a blighting east wind and she would say to interested friends "I cannot have Betsey ++++++ tuter my children" Her two brothers who lived nearest were very kind to her and called in a while every day to see how things were going an they kept watch for Isaac that he should not get any of the children)

Ticks tireless time its province to measure
Its sorrows brings in and brings in its pleasure
The rain forces in through the cracks of the door
And sendeth the sunshine in shafts on the floor

Its thunders do roar till the children all cry
Its lightenings flash o'er their house and the sky
In days and in months know not the full number
When comes from afar an uncle and brother
'Tis Edward he comes from the city about
When it is submerged by flood in and out
To tell that the father his children will take
Or the two oldest ones at least he did state
The much sterner brothers who live nearer by
Are threatening with coloring avenging eye
That should Isaac come their guns they would fill
At sight of his face his blood they would spill
The mother sheddeth tears of sorrow and grief
Her brothers combativeness gives no relief
She wishes no harm unto Isaac be done
The girl that was hired only wishes to shun
"O tell me my children to her neer shall go
Give me but this promise that well I may know
That you will defend them when I am gone hence
O keep not my spirit one day in suspense"
They gave her this promise in fullest of words
That they would defend if by pistols and swords
If no calmer way the case would afford {board
Her children with them should have shelter and
For, some premonition of death it so seem'd
The pulse tap't of fate clue in vision it gleam'd
That she should ere long find her unending rest
And that her dear children be cared for she press'd
A new inspiration illumines her face
Reflections the finest in mantling trace
Diffuses a comfort that's stranger to wo
A heavenly light in her features do glow

And reasoneth she long of what little is known
Save in revelations narrative shown
In Biblical hist;ry poetical lore
Of the holy City and celestial shore

But Isaac has brothers as well as has she
And one thinks him worthy his children to see
And gives him a horse in the forest to stray
That they in the woods might be out at their play
He in lucky hour upon them might come
When out of the sight of their inmates at home
Now Silas he sees and calls that comes on the run
Now drops him a dollar for friendship begun
Stout Wiley is in and comes to the door
The father wheels horse he dares say no more
In stature is Wiley six feet from the floor
His weight is two hundred and fifty and more
His locks are as jet as the dark ravens wing
Unshorn is his beard on his vest it does swing
He's horses and mules and cattle for sale
Any wrestler the people say he can flail
His eye has the flash of his high fiery steed
On horseback at racing he can take the lead
While riding in search of his brother in law
His watch held in hand as the children then saw
And hunting his pocket with thumb on its spring
As counting the minutes for some awful thing
He looks north and south and he looks east and west
Stepping to and fro for position the best
The children they too for their father do spy
For there is a rumor he is somewhere nigh

The mother flees past them and into the wood
For Silas is missing she now understood
The snow is powdering her hair with its white
As through its cold drifting she fleeth in fright
Her Silas now heareth the air is all still
'Twas pleasure to him to make echoing trill
His face she soon meets on the sloping hill side
His hand he extendeth in triumphant pride
She clasps round his shoulders to hasten his gait
He tries while returning his story to state
"A man on a horse said he was my father
Gave me this dollar was getting another
But saw uncle Wiley towards him to look
And turn'd on his horse and the snow off him shook
And then he put spurs and was quick out of sight
Behind the grape vines where is little light"

Consumption's sly work on the vitals to seek
Of that grieved mother so pale and so weak
That life grown so fragile and so over worn
And soon to the grave is the thin body borne
The forest in bud and the fruit trees in bloom
Is vernal nature when the grave giveth room
To the sister mother and wife lower'd down
Where monuments rear and green sward weareth crown
The father's first brother * had the sad hearse brought
Convey'd was the body to its resting spot
(* He afterwards bought a burial place where she lays for his kindred and she now lies the center of Isaac's six brothers three on each side of her All are there but Isaac himself This oldest brother had his parents removed to this place he was the last to follow of her parents' family)

In Lebanon Ohio her county seat
And laid in the grave yard in quiet retreat
He wept o'er the body in life time so true
And led forth the children to take the last view
Of their breathless mother; waiting for cover
Her face; neath the pine tree foliage over

Her people the children divided around
A home with themselves for all four are found
Then visiting each the one to the other
Was given the time to wean from the mother
Susanna for riding and visiting went
Soon with a good lady to stay if content
She talked of cookery and fine table spread
As the horse and wagon towards her home sped
Not long had she relish'd the promising treat
When cometh a stage past the reapers of wheat
It stoppeth before the good lady's gate
A gentleman alighteth there from calling "wait"
He's dress'd in blue broad cloth and standeth upright
The sun on his high beaver hat shineth bright
Now hat in his hand and wiping his brow
She glances the stranger and then makes a bow
The porch he ascendeth he is tall and fair
Now questions Susanna why she should be there
She looks on his hair dark brown straight and fine
Thick over the top head and parted in line

+ + + + + + +

"Do you not remember yet quite who I am"
On his flushed warm face again she looks calm
Observing the waves that quivereth his chin
And that his nose is long and Roman and thin

+ + + + + +

On his pink wreathed face and large liquid eyes
Changing blue or gray as his blood taketh rise
"Do you not remember me Susanna say"
Her voice that had seemed in her ears gives way
"Yes uncle David" she said rather doubting
For answer she thought must come out of something
"I'm not uncle David I am your father
And taking her hand and drawing her nearer
The lady appeareth and fearful of harm
Runs screaming and sounding a crying alarm
She calls to her sons to come in from the field
He enters the stage with Susanna conceal'd
The yellow stage rolleth in on gaining speed
Having been detain'd by the father's strange deed
When in Cincinnati the stage let them out
And after a while of their winding about
They went in a room where as funeral knell
The foregoing picture on Susanna fell
The whole was revealed in ominous sight
Betsey + + + + + her mother or did she judge right
For blanch'd there a woman asleep on the bed
Because Isaac's hand through the love the girl led
As icicles coursing from head to the feet
So is the performance of Betsey to greet
Her uncle she knows lives here in the city
And that for her mother he had great pity
And strongly she's tempted to flee to the street
And wander and wander till him she would meet
The father discovers her struggle within
And in tender manner he thus does begin
+ + + + + + +
"Your mother is dead you need have no other"
Now bursted the sorrow she'd tried to smother

By this kind relief subdued so cleaver
For no other one could she call mother ever

The father now midst the hurrying throng
Departs in the morning to his day's work long
Time then moveth slowly and heavily on
And cheerless is noon as a damp murky dawn
E'en listless and tedious the clock seems to say
"I sing out my ditty and then go away"
To come in her window seems cautious the Sun
As one a thing irksome is willing to shun
They had a small garden Susanna there stay'd
Mostly in the red currant-bushes faint shade
Day after day of the warm swelt'ring weather
For absence from Betsey is her endeavor
With Betsey alone in the house she's afraid
All wrongs and mishappenings to her there are laid
She scolds her and slaps her for "gazing" she says
Which bringeth remembrance of her mother's ways

From work comes the father unwell and unseen
And hears Betsey sentencing something as mean
Susanna she drives from the hall out the door
"Every day" saying "that look she has wore"
Susanna sat weeping on the cellar way stair
Outside of the house in the Sun's blazing glare
Her father's quick step brings him near to her side
Sadly he saith "Betsey and you must divide"
And then he continued "Why are you here
And what have you done to be treated severe
She looked in his face but feared to speak
For still she heard Betsey in vanquishing wreak

Susanna he led by the hand where she was
"I would like to know" he asked for what cause
Susanna must be driven into the heat
And the sun at its hottest on her bare head to beat"
"I will not bear that look she said
Unappal'd in wrathful ire
That ever mimicing the dead
Stepping as smould'ring fire
On every absent minded thought
She that image must create
Ever on my revery be brought
Unsolv'd mystery of fate"

(Now led her up to his room light and sunny
Where evenings he taught her how to count money
This recreation she enjoy'd in his room {home
And watch'd when his day's work were done for him ^
At turning the grocery corner in sight
To meet him would run whether rainy or bright
And often her hand held more than his finger
For seldom he failed something to bring her)
"I'd like to inquire now into affairs"
Meaning the furious fray down stairs
"For what does she generally blame you the most"
I think she believes that I keep mother's ghost"
She answered "And that through me it looketh at ^her
And when she imagineth this to occur
She slaps me and says I am mean so to pierce
Through her meditations so hateful and fierce"
"She's slapped you how often for the offense
Of your eyes to your mother's bearing semblance

She wishing to make it as fair as she could
Discerning a change of unfavorable mood
Replied "Only four times in a day sometimes"
His spirit this fired like one seeing crimes
She wish'd on this subject now no more to say
And tried to find something to turn it away
To all future questions she excuses made
And Betsey's worst enmities were not betray'd

Susanna's room door that night being open
She heard conversation thus through it spoken
"I now ask you Betsey in speaking of the day
When first I brought Susanna with us to stay
Where is the healthful, exuberance of bound
That marked her racing step like cat or hound
When in her child glee I first saw her at play
Through the opening stage and my heart then did pray
That God giving aid I might secure my own
And she to worldly sinfulness live unknown
"To you now I say you shall no more chastise
Susanna for the expression of her eyes
"And where's the firm assurance her countenance spoke
When first on her attention my voice awoke
Where's her unclouded brow that courage evok'd
When my hand at Huntsville her curly head strok'd
Where is the young life's spring filled to its brim
Th' overflowing happiness that grac'd each limb
Th' ruddy beaming face changeable in gleam
Where seem'd then invention of unmatched scheme"

"In that you do yourself portray
Sounded in resentful mood

You're seen in some inverted way
Or starting in some prelude
Which none can understand the game
Nor penetrate the castle flights
No mortal on this earth's to blame
Who cannot scale your air heights"
"Your rule with Susanna will underling make
And some different plan I must undertake
By which I can trust she'll be car'd for aright
And not have her talents exposed to blight
She has to her father never complained
And when he's at home her grief has restrained
The eyes of her mother were in woman true
What fault of hers if she in the likeness grew"

"I'd sooner have thorns on my soul"
She vented in angry spleen
Than her mother's eyes on me roll
Never want to see her mein
Susanna's she's solid and fat
And strong for one of her age
'Tis useless your this and your that
Because of her parentage
"'Tis Susanna's gazing I hate
As though ones thoughts she spied
I've switched her for it of late
And box'd her ears till she cried
Like owl on a hickory bough
That sees in the darkness of night
Comes glimmers of that woman's brow
In uninterpretted light

Convey'd in the untiring look
Of Susanna always still
As though some alliance to brook
Or some compromise fulfil"

When th, mute wand of silence was cast over all
And in Betsey's room the blind curtain heard fall
The thoughts of Susanna goes to her home first
For its twain endearments her spirit does thirst
Now around her bed passes ladies in white
She knows that she locked her door safe and tight
One lady stoops over and feels of her feet
"They're ghosts" now she thinks and fears them to meet

"Go to your aunt Susanna and kindred throng
And I would that the others could go along ⁘"
Was left in the air as they floated away
'Twas her mother's voice and not a legend fay

Her aunt Susanna and mother well she knew
Had love for each other the deepest and true
To her neatest home in beauty replete
Was most joyous journey this sister ⁘ to meet
"Susanna for counsel is wise" she would say
The secrets of friendship would never betray
To her in full trust have my suff'rings rehears'd
Her heart sympathised from the last to the first"
(⁘ The writer has heard this aunt Susanna say that her neice and namesake's mother felt nearer to her than any of her own sisters She was so brave in one sense of the word and yet so tender confiding and true)
⁘ meaning her other children

These memorys when vanish'd then Christmas day came
In its panorama of radiant flame
In her imaginings curious and strange
And through city querries her fancy does range
For 'twas but a week till the festival day
When the houses and streets would appear in array
Some money was given to Susanna the girl
To purchase such things as in wide windows whirl
And counting her money had kept her from sleep
How much she would spend and how much she would keep

The holly days are pass'd still as rainbow shore
There dazzles in her memory many a door
Through which she was guided by sweet laughing girls
To dainties to behold which luxury unfurls
She had Christmas treasures full up to the rest
And could make exchanges with girls of the best
And they prominaded the streets in recruits
Cheering to Susanna were their friendly suits
And yet while these raptures gay rolled in stream
Revolving their ideals like fairy dream.
The imagery prompting the blood in its flow
For rapider loftier pleasures to know
Then Betsey at breakfast gave shrill shrieking scream
But she was not questioned what she could mean
And like crashing storm she in language arose
She was not molested and talk'd as she chose
And Betsey she kept up the conflict of sound
From morning until the evening around
To see a lov'd kinsman declared she would
And every persuasion she stoutly withstood

Though Isaac he argued of time and th' loss
Of the eighty work hands of whom he was boss
But the self denial must be his to make
For she had resolved her word should not break
And so he arrang'd in a few days to go
With deep disappointment and sad spirit low
Susanna in hack in readiness found
The girls her equals then gathered around
And "good bys" were off'ring and their kind wishes
Which touch'd on her heart in accents most precious
And Alzina Ludnum the girl nearest by
Show'd kind glistening tears and she wondered why
As th' hack took start Alzina with look back eye
Said "I hope to see you sis before you die"

The loved kinsman's reaching Betsey went in
The rattling of dishes and voices made din
The father and Susanna turneth else where
And cross roads and meadows with his kin to fare
It is January but clearest warm weather
Which easier maketh the distance to measure
The trees standeth barren and grayish and leafless
And grape vines and bushes somber as lifeless
And chimneys appear in cot in clay ply
And they pass by house fronts that's leaning awry
Where puffeth the baby's dress out through the pane
And the brownish cow chews her cud in the lane
And they see fine houses the river flows past
Observe rowing skiffs on its face moving fast
The wane of the day on its ripples glance red
Ere on their strain'd vision the resting place spread

And they heard the lonesome sound of the farmer
Calling his flocks and their answering murmer
And the firy strokes of the blacksmith's hammer
Near blue striped posts where there is a clamor
The trees' arrow shadows quivereth the field
Where one lonely plower his furrows reveal
The last ray of Sun has departed the road
When they two entereth the kindred abode

When supper was over and the night's repose sought
Then Alzina glided on Susannas thought
Alzina so fair so gentle devoted
She that for example was so often quoted
And "I hope to see you sis before you die"
And the glistening tear in her sky blue eye
But reasoned she "Why should Alzina say "die""
She could not divine what her words could imply
And she had some feeling it might never be
Alzina or th, others she ever would see
And draws to herself their attentive kind acts
Examines herself if she aught to them lacks
Now her little cousin that lays by her side
Is asking her questions concerning her ride
Their talking continues till sleep overcomes
And Mary's inquisitiveness to it succombs

I'm going to my brother David's today
The father next morning said starting away
'Twas David who aided in the children plea
And who thought him worthy: his children to see
And furnish'd him horse in the woods to explore
Hoping to find them away from their door

And often he (Isaac) saw them from the house running { over
Heard their voices ringing saw them look about
  At last down the streamlet a child's form he views
And then all the courage in his glad breast renew'd
'Twas Silas his son untangling his kite
"He's active of limb he is swift in flight"
Says the father reining his horse and calling
And Silas hastens to the stranger coming
When the feet of the unfearing boy is arrived
Then all the romance in the father reviv'd
  He had him at school and to pass through college
Saw him at commencement excel in knowledge
Knew him renowned and commanding the bar
And named for learning and wisdom afar
And he saw him loyal in his country's need
And mighty in word and as warrior in deed
Thus in that bless'd moment his thoughts flew away
Unconsciously wrapped in earth's brightest ray
  His spirit returning he look'd on his boy
His eyes and his heart overflowed with joy
And said "He's ruddy of face his glance is bright
His blood runs pure in his veines his health is right
He's plump as a pegeon complexion is fair
The rose and the lilly are both blended there
Dark waves of auburn heavy fleece his large head
And still darker eyes do their radience shed".
  The prospects thus sailed in the father's brain
To Susanna narated in their full train
In subsequent days when she with him lived
That dashing acquaintence seem'd ever vivid
When he threw the dollar for friendship begun
To Silas his own favorite child and son

And Wiley reminding of thunder and flash
His betokening attitude threatning crash
And he wheeled horse his visit was done
And escap'd in the forest Wiley to shun
But prayed on the hill that this friendship true
Between him and Silas they might yet renew
He saw Silas holding the dollar to sight
And his mother's glance like a specter's of light
The snow flakes trimming her uncover'd tresses
And peri form face like softest lace meshes
Ascending the porch clung the girls to her dress
And seemed contriving how they could caress
Then my yearning prayer drew her look to my face
But not one lineament of me could she trace
Silas show'd manly would be strong in feature
Was healthful and gallant in all his nature
He ey'd the direction in which I had fled
And the height'ning roses on his brave face spread
"I watch'd till the snow storm thickened the air
And lost the board roof where my heart treasures were
And the look that I prayed would come to my face
Unvanish'd was still when my way did retrace
In as innocent sweetness kept by my horse
As when it first yielded my name to indorse
Soon after our children around her had wound
Save Silas he clasped his father's neck 'round"

Thus mused Susanna for companie's sake
Awaiting her father returning so late
Till the tree tops were hid in the twilight of gray
And the cows' lowing tones milder sounds kept at bay
The last beam of day through the forest had spangled
Where the grape vines swung and the mercury dangled

The hills and the valleys even were seen
When as shadow in air; pear'd her father's mein
From the meadow fence on which she was standing
The split rail fence for eminence commanding
Where long she had watched the woods far and wide
Before single glimse of her father she spi'd
  Now nearing she notic'd he had lagging gait
Denoted his countenance some change of fate
Descending to meet him and clinging his arm
Then dropped his tears on her hands fast and warm
  Bright flames wrapped the forestick and leap'd the back wall
Of th, high fire place and passed over all
Enlivening quick flashes short and then tall
Of blazing devices from the long to round ball
When he and Susanna the house had re enter'd
And the most distant seat he having prefer'd
With close folded arms he sat as reflecting
How unwelcome tidings the best way rejecting
For he showed plainly that something ahead
On his sensibilities was heavy dread
  Exasperating and conflecting vision
In attitude seem'd demanding decision
As in unrelenting and conflicting stand
Awaiting assertion resented or bland
Dispatched emotions back and forth had went
Or ebbed and flowed or they come and went
Like the fitful breezes which the hail storm starts
And flickered his face with their firey darts
  His eyes on Susanna like two stars that meet
Were azure in hue as the Summer clouds' fleet
Which hangeth over Warrens' Miamias' deep
In closely seen squadrons in their morning sweep

And the beauties of Warren came one by one
The rivers the woodlands the snow and the sun
And then came her cousins sisters and brother
Her uncles and aunts and then came her mother
On the father's mind this last view seemed brought
Or by his imagings in some way wrought
And various things talk'd between them before
Were now all review'd and a good many more
She felt that her mother stood close at his side
Caressing with hand to his sorrows divide
When the perspiration dampened his face
And he wip'd his brow in the circle found place

Next morning he said "Warfare was in my soul
All yesterday but partly 'twill off me roll
So I am impressed by some inward hope
Though faint is the scene as through star telescope"
Rubbing his fingers o'er his brain through his hair
As memories to banish anchored there
And adding "Susanna I can tell you all
Another affliction must on us both fall
We soon must be parted and perhaps for life
In your father's bosom this causes hard strife
"At David's I found the family all gone
And then I sat down to rest myself alone
Feeling persuaded he would presently come
Judging from condition of things round the home
With meandering eye first threaded the stream
Racing off through the low lands like silver gleam
My boyhood diversions they entertained
In th, bygone amusements became enchained

Along that stream's glide mammoth trees had fell'd
When startled away by Indians that yell'd
Their axes and flints often times we boys found
And their trophied relics hid in the ground
And dark squaws have seen who the most burden bore
With their little pappooses beside that shore
Its swollen waters had swum catching drift wood
Had view'd it for acres all under flood
Had chased the fox to his hole in the rock
Had seen wild Turkeys flying there by the flock
And then prowling wolves in these parts were about
And many wild animals were seen when out
Spotted cats skimm'd those woods quickly as the squirrel
That could make a strong man his hat from him hurl
More frequent were earthquakes in those days than now
The woods and the plains in deep furrows did plow
"Threw line in that stream and caught fish of good size
With well filled strings satisfide with the prize
Though dripping with rain often them to procure
For in misty weather the bait was most sure
And the raccoons so numerous in those days
Made fresh active sport in the season of sleighs
On Moonshine nights tracked them near to that strand
For the small compensation their skins might command

"A tall man awoke on my wandering sight
He had David's step and complexion of white
My heart rejoiced in the thought 'It is he'
But when coming up it was William to see
I reverenc'd William for his higher knowledge
Earning his way through gradations of college
'Twas from Union Village whence he had roved
And where was accounted to him well beloved

"He there was a deacon or else a trustee
A man so said with whom all would agree
Though glad was I then to see this good brother
Yet David I lov'd as I love none other"
("A Captain for Muster" was David 'twas said
From windows Susanna had seen them parade
He trained the motions of his men all true
But so far away that she could see but few)
When William sat down Isaacs thoughts took word
Events were related when was overflowd
That river its banks and the strong waters stood
In far widening sheet of one level flood
With full lipping brim above high water mark
Of the drift wood afloat and rolls of shell bark
Of Indian canoes that rode on its face
And its roaring loud sound in making new place
Of the ponderous bears and the deers quick bound
Sly reynards detecting in their cunning round
The hounds in pursuit of their trackings so fleet
Giving lively spring to the juvenile feet
Of the Indians there for favorite resort
Their whooping and dancing and singing transport
How they in the war farmers' horses misplac'd
And though oft pursued were seldom outchas'd
Now their younger days mostly talk'd over
By questioning Isaac maketh endeavor
To learn why William lonesome ramble had bent
So early to David's and what his intent
For in all William said seemd disguised tone
And shadows reluctant from his brows shone
And when he convers'd off he look'd on the sky
As revolving thoughts giving inward supply

"How is our sister Susanna" inquired
A reddening glow over William's face fired
And why did you get here so soon after me
That answered William I'd have you foresee
Lest unpleasant tidings I bring to relate
Or sorrow I might in your bosom create
But message I say from our sister I bear
And I'm undecided how it to declare
"She tells me that strange premonitions of late
Do visit her dreams and about her await
That Susanna's image her little namesake
Comes night after night and keeps her awake
That she and her mother oft come together
And that when leaving she knows not whether
The vapory child is deceas'd or alive
But left is impression that she does not thrive
"Tell Isaac * to send me my little namesake
And charge him his promise he must not break
For little Susanna he promised fair
Whenever I ask'd should be placed in my care"
"So I'll be here for your daughter to-morrow"
He said "And trouble you need not to borrow
Stay not in the least but be fully resign'd
For the sisters at home to her will be kind"
"Together let's reason" the father now said
"I know with my sister agreement I made
That when she should ask it I'd take you to her
This short sighted promise I now must aver
But my sufferings then were heavy to bear
Because with my family I could not share
And she and your mother were always such friends
That I'd ask'd this out as avenging amends

* Said the sister Susanna

"But now Susanna you are much larger grown
And your father's wild oats they are nearer sown
So I'll not compel you against your own will
That pledge if you say so I'll never fulfil"
"A promise she argued would be wrong to slight
Which he and her mother would both think was right
And alone with Betsey there seem'd nothing gay
And to aunt Susanna wish'd to go th, next day"
Now thoughts' coloring streaks like lightening spen
Or the upward sparks from burning coals sent
So checkered his face with their electric glow
And like summer shower did his eyelids flow
And said "Do you care no more for your father"
"Yes but as it is fix'd to go I'd rather"
Said she often censur'd for being stiff will'd
Her purpose thus held though her blood seem'd chill'd
"You'll go to your aunt then and leave your father"
"Yes but we may not be parted forever
You can come on visits and see us all three
Aunt Susanna and uncle William and me
And sometime it may be there will be your home
And we will be happy when we see you come
I love you far more than I lov'd my mother
And ev'ry one else in this whole world over

With the first pale rays of the sun on the field
To Isaac next morning with burden reveal'd
The coming of William afoot and alone
Then he call'd Susanna She answer'd in moan
So crying and sobbing that she could not speak
And th, sorrow of parting had made her so weak

Her father to her had been dearest of all
Since ere that she could to his reaching hand crawl
For she could remember before home he left
And she of his presence was sadly bereft
Though his form and features to her were eras'd
When he questioned her from the stage in such haste—
She then in new place and with new filled thought
Confusion his ways on her memory brought
Yet never a stranger had she seen before
Who lov'd her so well and whom she did adore
Instinctive as kinsman pervaded his face
Attraction to confidence giving full place
With him she was charmed ere hearing his name
Though Benjamin Franklin instinct does not claim

—

Provision's not made for Susanna to ride"
Now touched on the father's anger and pride
"Susanna can't go now" to William he said
This projected journey must be overlaid
If wagon nor carriage can bear her away
We'll postpone the matter to another day
Susanna's not able to travel that distance
And go she cannot without some assistance"

But William he parly'd and promised to carry
Susanna often as tired or weary.
For that disappointed their sister would be
At his returning and Susanna not see
At last his argument did over power
And she started off with her uncle that hour

When the final farewell around had been greeted
And the father of William good care intreated

Now William's eye deepened turning his neck
At Isaac's loud call and at seeing him back
And said with step longer and with wider sweep
"Already he's sorry he did n't you keep
Isaac was always my tenderest brother
The time I lament since he left your mother
The brightest was he in our family corner
And he was the swiftest as any performer"
One sere frosted meadow they had not yet cross'd
Nor the house they departed on their back view lost
When the masculine voice was heard on the breeze
Echoing the fence and against the bare trees
"Come back Susanna O Susanna come back"
She look'd and with foll'wing eye on their track
Was that of her father's he standing up high
On the post of the gate and raising her cry
From this position he called and stood
Their steps William quickened to the neighbouring wood
When over the fence she tried to look through
William caught her and said "This never will do"
And under his arm he carried her fast
The trees seem'd running as in cars going past
Through mud holes and pools made treacherous by leaves
Which the eyesight and footsteps both oft deceives
At length to her uncle concluded to say
"Am I not too big to be carry'd this way"
He instantly dropp'd her and she went behind
Repented though after in body and mind

New shoes hurt her feet and soon she was tir'd
And frequently told how deeply she mired
For when down he let her the mud holes he said
Must tell him when meeting and not try to wade
And merely he lifted her over the bogs
The fences gutters streams and highest of logs
Keeping up with her uncle very hard grew
And gladly she hailed each fresh pool in view
And the high rail fences their propping stakes rear'd
Like ladys' net lace scallops when far off appear'd
In the haze of the onward landscape loomed
And thorn projections fine tissues assumed
The nots on the trees 'pear'd as faces of men
And the squirrels their tenants frisking them then
On the dead looking trees to revive in the Spring
Hung shaggy bark grape vines cut as for swing
Now shudder'd with fear at the cracking of boughs
For a storm gath'ring gale chaf'd o'er the hill's brow
Sweeping the leaves furiously into ridges
And upon the marshes winnow'd in bridges
Making aim more uncertain to the travelers foot
And needing more caution his steps where to put
She asked her uncle to point out a mile
As hoping for shortening distance the while
Boot prints true as swarth the fourth, June mowers hand
Was her uncle William's which the woodlands span'd
His height she knew was six feet and four inches
Her tracks behind his seem'd only as pinches
In one of his steps counted three of her own
And lagging and complaining tried to make known
That she would be carried if she had the chance
But fruitless were all of the hints she'd advance

Now she turned sick so fatigued and cried
The uncle look'd back and he hemmed and he sigh'd
"Are you still grieving for your father dear child
He said in a voice sympathetic and mild
We'll get to the Village before it is night
And your little cousins* will meet you all bright
Their names are Milton and Jackson and Mary
They have nimble limbs and cheeks as the cherry

Now belfry and weather vanes dimly allur'd
And orchards and gardens and houses assur'd
That 'twas Union Village the eye climbed too
And nearer and nearer expanding to view
The pike bluish white came and pavement good
Extending off farther to see than she could
And rises in air the boys' fluttering kites
Cheered by their voices in vociferous heights
Now William the uncle took her by the hand
And said "Now we are ent'ring our Shaker land
A young order fam'ly is this we first meet
And she thought so beautiful and so complete
Were the large houses and yards and back of them barns
And th' country exquisite in summer adorns
All spread out so tastefully was the neat farm
When summer would smile on it kindly and warm
A hedge high and thick closed the garden around
And in the path midway a grape booth was found
By the eye's research its top latticed and long
Where grapevines traveled and birds light for song
And benches beneath as in omnibus seat
In summer no doubt for shady retreat

* his children

And fair fac'd ladys in the cleanest attire
Passed round and about and then would retire
Now met a young herdsman driving in a lane
In over shirt frock covering him clean and plain
The tread of his cows sounded plaintive in tramp
In unison seem'd with the air growing damp
And ladys with buckets stood in the barn door
As fair and as fresh as those seen before
The cows going in latched fast were their heads
"The straw they are spreading is to make warm beds"
Said her uncle William pointing his hand
Diverting her attention to higher land
Where round a flat barn were scattered sheep
Some walking some standing some lay as asleep
And two men from wagons were pitching new straw
And she thought their wheels must cut deep in the snow
A dog sits upright on the step of the stile
And closely he watched them passing the while
The uncle now led her into the brick office
Where her aunt Susanna liv'd as Trusteess
And when her apartment they both had enter'd
Gaze of disappointment on the neice center'd
And said "She's worn out", moving bonnet and shawl
And then of her brother inquiring all
For not taking horse him chided severely
And adds "Coming to me has cost her dearly"
Now her aunt Susanna and the sisters soothed
Her feet they bathed and her head they smoothed
And brought her hot supper that she could not eat
But she thought their kindness so good and so sweet
Then sage tea they made which they urg'd her to drink
And in feather bed high they dropp'd her to sink

With thoughts of her father she sobbed to sleep
For his voice it seemed did still calling keep
Next morning she could not get on either shoe
And sigh'd for her father who this us'd to do
But now aunt Susanna was mother instead
And both soul and body with affection fed
She said to her aunty "You have father's face
And in your heart as in his I have a place"
(The while she was lacing and tying her shoe
Now cleaned and polish'd to look nice as new)
"Will his home be here ever do you believe"
With pause came her answer and with bosom heave
The sisters attentions Susanna's time whil'd
And she thought their ways so pretty and mild
Wherever they went allow'd her to go too
In their genial warmth her happiness grew
And though 'twas midwinter the hens had nest
She lik'd to hunt eggs and to pick out the best
And to carry a basket of them to the cooks
And then to receive their kind words and kind looks
The broad bins of apples she thought were a treat
Where she was permitted to go and to eat
And fancied at times all the heavens could hold
Of the choicest treasures this home enroll'd
In every direction so much to enjoy
And nothing she knew of was found to annoy
The free large storage seem'd as gifts from above
Their germs having multiplication in love

Issachar Bates a founder of this good home
To Susanna once said when seeing her come

Do you love the sisters "Yea" she replied
"That's right" he return'd as he searchingly eyed
Her "You love the sisters" with a sharp cane crack
"And to the world you will never go back
Do you see the stars" then asked "Yea at night"
"If you will be good like them you will be bright"
Here he was tarrying his labors were o'er
To his home in the East to return once more
To plant Mother's gospel in this Western land
He cherish'd ambition to have a command
And no cost he counted or service withstood
Wherever he saw chances offer for good
He travel'd through rain and snow and wintry sleet
Till cold and exposure took bones from his feet

Susanna at length to the East house went
Where all of the children that came in were sent
At play met her cousins all blooming and fair
And Jackson the youngest had dark curly hair
Their mother was dead; near in that domicile
The wants of the fam'ly knew how to fullfil.
Her kindred bore fame in a name much renown'd
That rolled from mens lips in high titles sound
A mother was she in the noblest degree
Her womanly heart e'er impartial and free
Solicitous glanced the young and the old
From her dear affection "None left in the cold
The children prolific in wants and in questions
Thronged her presence with eager inventions
Her favor to win or her eye to enlist
With diverse attractions would ardent persist

The Sun rose in might and the winter march'd past
With all his equipments of cold chilling blast
While the engines of Spring came in with their showers
Mantling the orchards and gardens with flowers
The succulent verdure of issuing green
Like silver gemm'd carpet lay rich in the sheen
And sunshine and shower fledg'd leaves on the trees
That turned up edges to the eddying breeze
The Summer's broad programme fill'd to the full
Of fruitage and berries inviting to cull
And more in profusion than fingers to pick
But the watch of abundance kept still on the tick
The garden heav'd heavy its long furrows through
And "ready in ripeness" continually grew
The strawberry currant and raspberry black
Came each in succession that there be no lack
And apples pears cherries and apricot fruit
And the plums and peaches and quince in pursui
With the Fox grape vines in their green curling twine
The useful and beautiful serv'd to combine
(Susanna's sense filling of the hundred fold
Of which the elder in her first meeting told
And that no good thing would Jehovah withhold
From the upright as promis'd by prophet of old)
And loads of fresh hay came as turtle in shell
Or so drew the horses the ponderous swell
To the barns wherein by a strong winding rope
In measured spans lifts to loftier grope
Till load upon load to the oak rafters crept
Or heights where the pigeons their hoarse counsels kept

The childrens school term embraced the winter
In their dwelling house their school room did center

James Smith the first elder was the boys' teacher
Good for example and good for a preacher
In the house where they lived the girls had their school
A sister for teacher with old country rule
But she was a mother and had children there
And just and impartial in her 'lotted care

When Spring o'er the landscape had spread herself fair
Then work for the children did the elders prepare
When leaves were the size of "a gray squirrel's ear"
In the mulberry orchard that grew in the rear
Of the woods back of the Pear with statelier chest
The white mulberry that the worms lik'd the best
Then silkworms were hatched on cotton clothes where
The eggs had been layd and preserved with care
The girls now in wagon and baskets fill'd in
Were drawn to the orchard their work to begin
Along grassy field and early red clover
For picking the mulberry leaves to cover
On the hungry silkworms so greedy to spread
That often requir'd to be chang'd and fed
And briskly performed was this morning toil
When the children might play or in the shade coil
Till the wagon drove home and come back again
And then for a race each commenc'd on a strain
Till fill'd were the baskets and tied up high
And the children for dinner follow'd on nigh

The larger girls spun in the long summer days
And were recommended to the woods for their plays
The glory of nature's offspring there flooded
The wild roses bloom'd and the violets budded

The blackberry shoots hazel bushes entwin'd
And ranged their berries delicious to find
O'er the more distant promise in green knuckle boy
Which the hazel its offerings later prepare
From the Dogwood in bloom to its crimson seed
On exhaustless changing the fancy could feed
The goose berry blossom to its prickly yield
The grape vine tendril till the cluster reveal'd
The wild cherry tree that the fence stood within
Gave its purple berries ere the frost did begin
The hackberry tree that higher does grow
And sheds sweetest berries when the ground lays in
In th, hill sides were roots which th, children might find
That were for the coloring art most inclin'd
There grew red and yellow puccoon or blood root
With which bits of muslin they dyed to suit
And wrapped their doll babys in flower'd dress
And then so beautiful them sweetly caress
For these little dyers wore nought but home made
In copperas and blue not easy to fade
Their dresses in summer were from the home loom
That made early music in the weavers' large room
In winter wore thread they spun by the skien
On the race till mid day or spun in its wane
And made into flannel in indigo ground
Streak'd red in the warp or in plaid going round
Else brown from the coloring of butternut bark
The fullers press'd smoothly and even and dark
And those that the pallet would work to supply
Found grass nuts wild onions sprouted acorns in fly
And Ginsang and Elecompane roots to chew
In the sunshine would dig or in the wet dew

And dig for the bulb would of an Indian turnip
As a mole would dig for the bulb of a tulip
Those that for geology were most inclin'd
Along narrow hollow their footsteps would wind
And the curious in shell and in sand find prize
Worms petrified and flints from which fire flies
And uprooted trees climb banks to look under
Hoping for treasure in Indian plunder
Their marv, lousness else saw there century old
What the size and the signs of the tree plainly told
The devious ramblers the black haw trees found
And bending their fan like spread tops to the ground
Then called their equals to come and partake
And many quick fingers the clusters did break
And the nicest of red haws they could ferret out
In their enterprising researches of scout
The best paw paw thickets they knew all about
And in these excursions they ne'er lost their route
And those to acquisitiveness the most inclin'd
Around the shell bark hickories their steps would wind
And aprons and baskets fill full to the brim
Then carry them home themselves these girls were slim
And acorns and hazel nuts swelled their store
Till room for deposit there was found no more
And large wagon loads of walnuts the boys would haul
The girls hull'd of these for themselves in the fall
And those that most pleasures in flowers combin'd
Their loose checked aprons sweet Williams confin'd
The May apple white or the violet blue
On the top of the hills there side by side grew
And there was a pinkish white lilley shap'd flower
That clipt was so tender 'twould not live an hour

{learn

And numberless blooms that their names could not
That grew o'er the forest where'er grew the fern
And those having instinct for "castles in air"
Had inclination to be clambering somewhere
The hill's highest peak to look over the brink
And drop little stones in the water to sink
Th' loftiest assend of luxuriant tree
The objects in father off region to see
Look on yonder oak tops the sun walketh first
Or that on the garden and hedges clear burst
Susanna had love for the high blowing breeze
And knew how to climb to the top of the trees
And there with her equals to send glances home
So near to the clouds and their transparent dome
There nestled in bough where the fresh fragrance shed
'Neath the green leaf roof in the breeze over head
And meantime singing from hearts that rejoice
The following song at the top of their voice

"The name of Shaker is for me
A worthy Shaker I will be
A Shaker is a pretty name
The name of Shaker I will claim
I am a Shaker yea 'tis true
Though Shakers are so very few
I'm not asham'd of Shaker name
For Shakers over evil reign" {quake
The bright varnish'd leaves in their quivering
Reflecting the sunshine that times with their shake
The rustling wings hear of the swarm passing birds
See the play of the lambs ere the shepherd herds

The beckwells' broad backs ere the white fleece is taken
And the nourish in mother the little ones' waken
To look o'er the farm at the brethren to work {lurk
The ploughs through the corn tear the weeds that there
See the orchards presenting wind gathering rows
And the fences around the elder bloom shows
The hop and the dewberry climbing the rails
And the mercury vine that after them trails
The hackberry tree greeting each with its shade
That on the white snow often sweet berries laid
The coffee nut tree at the meadow's gate post
Whose nuts the boys picked and then lik'd to roast
The sweet honey locust to be touch'd by the frost
That the girls liked to taste though not worth the cost
And near were pecan trees with reddish rough bark
Whence came twittering birds that soar'd as the lark
The butternut grove having nuts long and green
From their lofty eminence ⁙ now could be seen
The clean reaped fields yet in stubble rain cell
That from the pure heavens the night before fell
Now flush'd with the sun that glow'd in each stem
Appearing like myriads of a sparkling gem
The endless profusion of wealth laden store
Enamor'd their senses+ each day more and more
And had kept them out till the owl gave his hoot
And the neighbors tin horn resounded salute
These woods were across but one orchard and field
At nearest point and there the seasons unseal'd
Their harvests of colors of variegate tint
From Daffodil early to the last frozen mint

⁙ At different periods of time {+or at least Susannas

This forest encompass'd the farm all around
And gave spacious room for the girls' pleasure playing ground
When racing at their wheels could gain half a day
To spend in the woods for diversion and play
  The creek through the woods with its bottom of stone
But ruptur'd in places as by earthquake thrown
Tall oaks stooping over to look on its face
As it slipp'd the ledges retarding its pace
The mussel shell bleach'd here and there found along
The locust and frog in its sight start their song
The plash and the sound of the sycamore ball
Round eddying its ripples in the plunging fall

  A touch on the shoulder gave sudden surprise
And Susanna's child vision vanish'd her eyes
The book of her mother turn'd half its pages
The part which portray'd the Shaker life stages
On memories sight came her father's homestead
And the information which there had her led
In cold winter month of the year '75
When scarcely 'twas said was her father alive
  Now the features bore sadness of her mother's face
As though a deep sorrow her heart did embrace
And then on the mind of Susanna prostrate
Appeared her father in his feeble state
As when his room enter'd in the twilight gray
While the gates of the evening were closing the day
And solemn the silence pervading the room
By whispers she learned to die was his doom

In bed he was lying as though fast asleep
On his back as a corpse his breathing was deep
Close follow'd her in the doctor from Carbon
He pulsed her father & him kindly look'd on
'Twas asked this doctor strong gallant and ~~strong~~ tall
(Good will whose eye beamed on all they did fall)
What was his opinion concerning the sick
"His life ere the morning will burn down its wick"
Reverent and tender in substance repli'd
And questions of int'rest to none were deni'd
Yet he measured portions to take through the night
At every two hours dissolved and white
She (Susanna) stood by his bed till the doctor was gone
She stood by his bed till they two were alone
That life might return her soul then beseech'd
And bended her face to his till it reach'd
"He will ne'er speak again" she knew they had said
And show'd where his burying clothes folded laid
Near by in the room where the watchers would lie
But such preparations made her spirit sigh
Contented she was not on their decision
Her father to life would have on her vision
And pressed his temple and it was not cold
But the power of action seemed controll'd
One half of her eye sight seem'd in her mind
And 'bove the lamp shaded a light on it shined
His eye lids were parted but the balls mov'd not
But seem'd ~~like~~ stiff like as emblems in lone quiet grot
Or the boys glass marbles that roll on the floor
Taken tint from the skies or some coral shore
But Susanna stood near he knew it was her
Though the orbs of his eyelids he could not stir

Knew her voice it was the parental name spoke
And memories long absent slowly awoke
She notic'd dim lines of emotional trace
Light faintly through the mussels of his wan face
And efforts reviving of trying to speak
Showed the endeavor in discernable streak
She look'd on the furrows of age in his cheek
Then placed her ear to his lips but too weak
Was he to lisp one word or to raise one moan
Yet she thought returning were signs of life shown
At length came the sentence nearer breathed than spoke
"They say I am almost gone" then blanching stroke
Cross'd over his features and passed away
And as dropping to sleep he now colder lay
Susanna had heard that speech uttered clear
Had sometimes aroused the death slumbering ear
And with hand on his pulse and trembling with fear
She sounded aloud in her father's pale ear
"Now I have come father and you will not die"
This she repeated in his ear loud and nigh
Her prophecy enter'd his confidence in
As she discover'd in his quivering chin
"You think I may live then because you have come
Now that you have come stay at your father's home
Till he quits this clay or recovers again
And sealed may his fate be while you remain"
Slow and weak came these words and broken between
By sleep and by moaning that did intervene
And moving lips and starts as dartings of mind
And hunting of hand as for something to find
(She had home permission one month here to stay
Should she deem it needful to make such delay

In case of low sickness for she was impress'd
By her dreams and her feelings causing unrest
That sick was her father or else he was dead
And with tidings other for this journey plead
  Touch'd by his appeals she concluded to stay
Not having the hardness to him disobey
(And to his entreaties she promises made
When he grew some stronger and did her persuad
That she would not leave him until he could walk
And they two together would have lengthy talk)
His bedside she tended and his wants obey'd
From his heart felt the echo that her kindness mad
And 'twas seven weeks ere he walk'd to the street
Or without his cane could keep on his feet

.And now said the father to Susanna when
The air had been vocal with prayers and amen
"Does not your month elapse here on this tenth day
If so then I want you to write home and say
That your father wishes you longer to stay
To stay till his fate determine either way
The Elders I know this permission will give
They are the best people that in this world live
In my mother's last sickness they gave this grant
The distance some miles to Susanna your aunt
  Your brethren ⁘ this morning their prayers here proffer'd
'Twas time of revival hence easy offer'd
These were earnest souls who from house to house went
The wind blowing fierce and the snow having vent

⁘ Of the "United Brethrens Church" of which
Susanna's father was a member

And enter'd these Brethren of Mechanicksburg church
Till twelve shook the snow 'neath the dooryard birch
These "United Brethren" all seated 'round here
Their topic the scriptures and salvation dear
Dark texts to their wakened sight coming clear
And the prophetic promises giving full cheer
Now still on her heart their prayers for her father
Her gratitude claim'd and she could no other
Than show obligation for what was intended
Prayer for herself and her father ascended
When thy father requested Susanna to write
These twelve praying Brethren sat full in her sight
Each gave his opinion that she should now stay
And no good people would decide other way
To know what to do she felt much embarrass'd
For next was the day on which she had promis'd
To be at her home in the Ohio State
And lest marring union did not like to wait
But she wrote home to her good elders kind
And telling the story that there did her bind
And deeming that silence at length gave consent
She stay'd as they did not by letter prevent

The winter had pass'd and the Spring beam'd her ray
When Susanna's father with cane for his stay
Proposed to her to look over his land
Pointing the direction from their present stand
And slowly they wended their way through the yard
And along the street and garden and barn till bar'd
Was their further passage by bars for a gate—
Which the cows and the calves would bawl through and wait

Inside were two pastures for horses and cows
This barn held the corn and the horses' hay moughs
Now threading the pastures and lowering slope
Where the twinkling springs with the Otter elope
And stemming this stream call'd the little Otter
Mostly composed of clear springs of water
And when having climb'd to the opposite bank
She turn'd and reviewed the depth that it sank
'Twas unbroken sod that had ne'er felt the plow
In gradual assent from the base to the brow
The land laying level and high at the top
Yet only the grass had e'er borne for its crop
So her father told her with much that pertain'd
To his farm and homestead before it he gain'd
She now down the stream saw a barrel on its side
And anxiously clucking a hen with steps wide
Her little brood watching of hatched out ducks
In oval spring basin them round and round sucks
Twelve little beauties just out of the shell
All in a huddle with bills dipping well
At the roots of a walnut reflecting its shade
And the hen so perplexed made such parade
Susanna she went and then lifted them out
To please the old hen that kept clucking about
But straightway their tiny red feet paddled back
With faint little noises not come to the quack
While walnuts were frequent along this streamlet
And even so early their shade gladly met
Now come to a fence his woods land inclosed
A newish rail fence 'neath the dew yet reposed
And crossing over into thrifty forest
The largest oak tree she had e'er seen was nearest

Grass and its roots clothed and there they sat down
In sight of his homestead and joining small town
And when they had rested north follow'd the fence
The oaks to Susanna for size were immense
The spice brush and sassafras there grew profuse
The sassafras sprouts oft she breaks off and chews
The early mushrooms by the peck in a place
Gladly met her eyes and she thought lucky chase
It would make for some she could think of at home
Who pursue't enjoyed for mushrooms to roam
The trees stood as thickly as the corn in the field
And at a short distance the sun all conceal'd
These mushrooms were large and as white as the frost
For the sun through the trees not a ray on them toss'd
But this forest damp and so dark and so cool
Some high solemn majesty seemed to rule
A growth fresh and wild 'twas without worm decay
Reminding of forests where the axes found way
Letting storms and sunshine unnaturally in
And then comes the worms their harvests to begin
Except near the fences no grass could be seen
But patches of briers appear'd sharp and keen
The limbs of the trees were so wove overhead
They seemed like in shower umbrella full spread
Now reaching the fence corner on the north east
And having pass'd woods in view had not ceas'd
Still north in direction continuing course
Till the sounding of water came on their ears hoarse
The father now said as he pointed ahead
"That is the Big Otter" telling how it was fed
"And the northern boundary line of my land
You see it runs straight here and makes lovely strand

She look'd up and down it and saw it was deep
And notic'd that coal banks between it did sweep
At forty feet depth 'gan the coal to appear
As she from her father learn'd viewing it near
Block coal deposits by the force broken through
Of rush upon rush of the back waters now
"Susanna we'll stop here and rest" he faint said
Now under luxuriant Maples' thick shade
The last week in May now their walk is taken
The forest in leaf by bland breezes shaken
Fluted reflections in vibrating quiver
Filter'd the sun through the trees on the river
Disclosing root channels where storm driven scourge
Had scored the banks in tumultuous surge
The great mammoth oaks in high towering arch
With green leaves canopied the Otter's swift march
And the brambles and bushes in primeval stamp
Its course meander'd past the spoil'd sugar camp
The trees still as close as the corn in the field
And at a short distance the light all conceal'd
Or from the location whence they did converse
As they watch'd the bough mirror'd rivers traverse
The poplar trees seemed the sun most to seek { weak
With arrow straight trunks and their limbs short and
The father now from his breast coat pocket took
In leather case strapp'd which he unloos'd to look
Into its divisions where severally laid
Old letters and papers with stiff edges fray'd
"Susanna" he said "you read these to me now
It may be difficult but I will allow
For that the ink is faded and hard to show"
She saw tinge his forehead she thought inward flow

As she read the packages careful and slow
While in her own bosom great interest did grow
And when she had finis'd he explain'd minute
How his right in them there was none to dispute
And them he presented to her bound up tight
Saying "in these to you I convey my right
But not till I'm gone can this enter'd be
And then be you guarded with whom you agree
"Susanna this resting" he now said "will do
Come see the reward which I promis'd to you
If you would remain and attend by my bed
Until I surviv'd or was laid with the dead
You know not the good your obedience shed
To feel that your spirit your father yet led
And that your affections were still as the childe
That left her father in the wilderness wilde"
Amidst the trees winding in following him
Two coal cars she scanned in unworking trim
On descending slope that ran into the hill
But stood in the cavity rusty and still
At one time before she had been in this wood
And slate its coal seamed she then understood
From bright little Willie romantic and fair
That the history knew of everything there
The fragrance of flower from plant and from tree
The air heavy loaded as sweets for the bee
And nearing the two little cars in the bank
There saw iron lengths lumps of coal water tank
And effort she learn'd in that place had been made
The block coal bowels of his land to invade
At length the field wading where the wheat high grew
As even in wave as a lake on the view

He suddenly stop'd and through the tube curved hand
And citing "Here is the highest point of my land"
He said through this telescope looking east west
On the Spring house's side then and its hill crest
"And here is inhaled the winds' purest breeze
Could see to Brazil were it not for the trees
Were it not for the forest from where we stand
A seven miles view full this point would command
"And now Susanna right here is the center
Of where I desire your claim to enter
My will you have read I consider the rest
But this location I have thought was the best
Ten feet it is higher here than at Carbon
Which lies precisely one mile due west and on
An even straight range of exact ninety feet
By sinking of the shafts there good coal they meet
"Eight mining slopes north of Carbon you have seen
(With friends she had follow'd the steep hills between
Where the Little Otter roll'd in western glide
And the coal mining slopes ran in at each side)
At one mile from Carbon were these lucky slopes
On the north but at Carbon there were no hopes
With slopes and with borings had previously tried
Till ninety feet shaft full their wishes supplied
The slopes were at Carbon as the Otter's fare
I went to some cost there a slope to prepare
To the place alluding they lately had left
Which looked so lonely and of care bereft
"By coal land judges I have been assured
At one hundred that might be procured
By shaft th, finest of coal beneath where we stand
But this may be done when its need makes demand

Remember Susanna here's my choice for you
Should you before me pass the death portals through
You were the first child in your father's command
The first that reach'd arm the first in his hand"
But she cast her eyes on his home meeting town
Embankment adjoining and spring house down
The back yard's gradually lowering descent
And her avarice then to the spring's blessings went
"A room for th' spring there" she thought "and shelves by th' door
For dairy convenience from ceiling to floor
A room for th' milk that the stream glides around
In poplar inclosure and silent in sound
An unfreezing untiring unceasing flow
As soft as th' rain clear as th' air and cool as th' snow
A thrifty beech tree in the hill giving shade
Near th' slant of the roof where the shingles are laid
There taking firm root and there standing upright
A tree fairly grown showing no signs of blight
And from the west shelt'ring and the south's heating sun
Where the milk is brought in and the dairy work done
"That grassy embankment his whole farm across
That in dashing rains from jetting springs toss
Their fresh limeless waters in outbursting strength
The bank interspersing its entire length
In which springs unfailing by digging them out
Might thus be obtained through its spanning route
Or told the near neighbors Susanna 'twas so
That the Otter's south bank was full of springs' flow
And that these clear springs under cloudlet control
To issue in silence or to leap and roll
From six mammoth springs came in more southern bound
That trac'd underground to the Little Otter's sound

"The green level yard land 'side the street facing throng
With the Spring's facilities press'd on her strong
For home calculation far being the best
For her father's advice though her heart made request"
Her thoughts ran thus quickly while hearing his words
And the various songs of the sweet singing birds
He now said her birthday in June she might go
Where's seen the blue mist from the Miamis' flow
In her quiet home the retreat of the wise
Who the kingdom of heaven and its treasures prize
Her birthday in June in another week come
And she was prepared for her Shaker home
A kind teamster then took her trunk and her too
And Willie and her father to the depot
They stood on the pavement the whistle it screamd
On the bright locomotive the sunshine beam'd
She enter'd its train with heart aching swell
Then met the thin hand for another farewell
Of her feeble father with tears falling fast
But she could not speak for the crowd coming past
She yielded her hand till the cars grinding start
Gave sufficient warning that caus'd them to part
Then turning to look at the place whence they came
There saw little Willie and whisper'd his name
Her father's weak step and his blue streaming eyes
From open car window Susamia she spies
He follow'd same way as was going the train
And she look'd till nothing of him did remain
Then o'er the thick tree tops she saw the wheat green
Where her father's small hand had there pointing seen
The emerald extent the sun bath'd in glow
And there to aprise seem'd a tender halo

From the time that Susanna left her father at Carbon Clay Co. Indiana until she saw his death and burial in the paper some weeks after it had occur'd

---

Susanna she learn'd when nineteen months were past
From an old newspaper she look'd over fast
That dead was her father at Brazil inter'd
And the deepest emotions of her heart were stir'd
On this printed page were other deaths told
All differing in date unconcerned and cold
Not one in the column in the least applauded
Not one good deed of their lives were recorded
In three little lines was the tribute there paid
To her deceas'd father in the damp earth laid
But it felt to her something more should be said
Of one whom the needy e'er helped and fed
That her father's exit too briefly was penn'd
For one whom 'twas pleasure always to befriend
So at length missive ventur'd in black and white
Not knowing exactly to whom she might write
They answer'd her letter she was satisfied
"The meeting house full was and many outside
The funeral the largest ever seen in that town
And came from the country the people far around
The preacher shed tears when the sermon did preach
Speaking of his kindness to all and to each
(For many long years he had liv'd in that part
To every acquaintance dwelt love in his heart)
And never with sermon had he ever serv'd
Where so many wet eyes were" the preacher observ'd

After the funeral her informant so said
And kind recollections were nam'd of the dead"

Soon after she wrote concerning his will
The tidings receiv'd her spirit did thrill

The answer to her letter in substance did state

"The old lady had the will in her hands
And soon as were pass'd the funeral demands
In haste then she sent it for legal advice
To our county seat to its lawyers wise
But they had some feeling that all was not right
And had inclination to treat it with slight
By him discerning that it had not been seal'd
And interlin'd writing objections reveal'd
"I hear that the Probate threatens refusal
As he did n't seal it rejects its perusal
The old lady claims that he will'd all to her
And this she pleads witness to have him aver
Some talk is afloat about her strange actions
Her excuses and furious exactions
And often repeating "He will'd all to me
None others have rights in the smallest degree"

Susanna then wrote to the probating court
And anxiously waited the coming report
But answering letter to this never came
She waited two months then repeated the same
On the second of May from the clerks hand receiv'd
What she had not doubted but fully believ'd
And in this last letter a card was inclos'd
With names of officials fairly dispos'd

The Clerks letter in which was folded the card

"The Will of Isaac" +++++ "madam was not probated"
So this letter from the clerk to her stated
But soon came a thought growing into annoyer
And she show'd the letter to her village lawyer
"The Will" he then said "was deem'd false no doubt"
And patience advised till justice turn'd out
  Susanna that night when having retir'd
And the cares of the day from her mind had expir'd
Then blooming and thoughtfully her mother came
With the card in her hand of Official sign'd name ⁘
Array'd in such robe as a sun lighted cloud
Obedience as rend'ring to what she'd vow'd
But this obedience came not of her will
But from higher source was a gift to fulfil
  As incense exhal'd show'd a cross in her face
And gave such expression as words cannot trace
Far sweeter than odor from flowers of time
Emitted the efforts of her soul divine
And John W Ecret a man of the law
Was the name she selected Susanna she saw
Again she reviewed the name with intent
Emotions of trust from her countenance went

+ + + + +

Then dictated words for Susanna to send
As of him entreating his kindness to lend
  In the morning she wrote Mr Ecret the whole
Of her dream or vision unheeding control
And six weeks she watched for answering word
Longer waiting than this she could not afford

⁘ See page first

Examin'd the card then for some other name
And to choose one wrote of her rightful claim
Yet while she wrote was her mother's fore finger
Pointing to Ecret and there it did linger
This letter was answerd in light flowing hand
In gallant expression of sentence and bland
Its winning persuasion of daintiest gleam
Bright broaden'd in radience to one full beam
And she thought that it another requir'd
Encourag'd by what its contents inspir'd
Yet while she wrote was her mother's fore finger
Pointing to Ecret and there it did linger
But pleas'd was Susanna with the lawyer's speec
And wrote highest phrases her language could reach
Though her mother's presence would frequently break
Some things on the future she was wont to make
Yet she was determined still to pursue
The ideal promise that in her mind grew
Although while she wrote her mother's fore finger
Pointed to Ecret and there it did linger
Her mother in beauty now solemnly stands
Persuading by tokens that clearly expands
Expanding of figures mean emphatic will
Susanna this learn'd from her mother's signs still
No audible sounds her language convey
Yet her inner senses spoke true as to say
What in vocal sentence she wish'd to portray
Her symbols appeared plainly as the day
"In dreams and in visions" she (Susanna) reasoned now
"Oft times has been found there was much to allow
And trying to banish the view from her mind
And straining her thoughts other object to find

Now pequed regrets restless troubled her breast
And fearful fore bodings her heart heavy-press'd
Now half way repented what she had express'd
Now half she hop'd it might miss its address
But that long epistle was true to its aim
In th, practiced strokes of clerk penmanship came
Yea this answ'ring letter but O what a change
Her anticipations it did unarrange
As shade to the moon or eclipse of the sun
Compared with the first whose glitter had won
In image ⁙ it stiffen'd and stoutly it stood
Incomprehensible to her was its mood
But read and re-read it though inward she roil'd
Becoming convinc'd that she had been foil'd
'Twas self will she thought now gained at life's start
Her bark engineering through unshrinking art
That in its instinct yet arose unsubdu'd
When the lofty lawyer she address'd so crude
By redress requesting though she had to confess
That money was absent from her more and less
"Yet if Postmasters answer questions we ask"
She reasoned "Why should attorneys think it such task

This Lawyer's letter in part
"I have not the time nor the patience" he said
Nor the inclination" + + + she also read
Meaning or alluding to compensation
'Twas chilling to her this cold information
For she had been rear'd in free institution
And knew not the ways of out side solution

⁙ The image as of a man that seemed to form from the contents of the letter as she read

A caution of lawyers her friends had discuss'd
But in high officials she could not distrust
Susanna now tired of Lawyers and "Will"
Concluded that she for a time would keep still
And that it show'd reverence to wait for one year
Had now to Susanna been made to appear
Ere making disturbance about the "Last Will"
For then would the law its requirements fulfil
And as respect rend'ring to him in this wise
She hop'd that by waiting lucky turn might arise
To gain her a hearing in some gen'rous heart
Who would for her act the Samaritan's part
Five months had pass'd since she made this conclusion
When there came on it the foll'wing intrusion
Her sister then came on business she claim'd
At Susanna's home (John W Ecret she nam'd)
In reff'rence to a letter last Spring receiv'd
With thoughts coming fast this Susanna griev'd
Rememb'ring her folly and sorrow of heart
When on suburb ventur'd of the lawyer's art
Meantime that her sister owned and confess'd *
That the said letter was to both them address'd

* The first letter written to Mr Ecret by Susanna was in May 1877. Her sister Mary had written to the Probate Court also and received a letter and card the same as hers Then Mary wrote to John W Ecret preferring his name on the card to the others as Susanna too had done And the sisters writing about the same time and about the same thing He answered them both under one directing it to Dayton to Mary. There had been no previous understanding between what each other wrote or received on this subject

And indifferent said fam'ly hist'ry he ask'd
As in it there seem'd something hidden or mask'd
And that as Susanna was the oldest child
In their family lineage by birth right fil'd
The best she would be this business to transfer
And so it was agreeably left to her
Susanna in spirit new hope now she view'd
And large sheet of paper with history strew'd
(And when a full year had its seasons all fill'd
Of its rounds of duty on that heart so still'd
Which laid in its vault in the damp clayey ground
When the warnings of winter in the winds made sound)
To John W Ecret to be sent through the mail
Praying as she wrote that she might yet prevail
And to the same sister in due time she went
To show her the letter from there have it sent
And Mary she read it and said it was true
And then to the Post Office started they two
That day had their father been buried one year
That day it had rain'd but was now bright and clear
They walk'd side by side to the post Office slede
Two stamps there were needed one each did provide
A now announcement true on the iron flying wings
Of the conquering rail road its message brings
From John W Ecret in prompt kindly letter
But clasp'd Susanna's heart in aching fetter
And rush'd over her what her father had said
When she in Clay county at his home stead stay'd
Remembering well when she read his "Will" through
She seated by him and he looking on too
And told her to read it see if it would do
And over and over she read it all through

And when she had finished replied "It is just"
And in her opinion she knew he did trust
So she knew wherein line and sentence was chang'd
Of the one in her lap so widely derang'd

Mr Ecrel's Letter to Susanna

"Madam yours of recent date is" now "at hand + + +
Your father's Will" for you is badly plan'd
"No doubt you're lab'ring under false impression"
Regarding its true import or condition
"I therefore send you a copy of his Will
As it is proved and entered" and remains still
"In which is given to Elizabeth his wife
His whole and real estate during her life"
"His whole real estate" for Betsey her life
This now in Susanna would cause little strife
But when she reads over that altered "Will"
Which no sheet of paper more blunders could fill
She reasons and reflects till her heart seems still
And prophecy even has departed her skill
And though all astounded yet impulse inclines
To retrace the falsified altered lines

"Second"

"To my wife Elizabeth I will and devise
My real estate and property" as it lies
"To have and to hold and to sell the same
And convey said land for her own" this false claim
"Use and dispose of the means as may be best"
This show of his "Will" say can it give her rest
"For her own use and support" said he was sane
And this latest clause they repeat it again

"Third"

And "Third my personal property all
I will and devise to my wife" may fall
Susanna she tries this "Will" to help out.
By twisting its words a little about
And thinks that her father if here had his say
In materializ'd form as in mortal clay
That the counterfeit lines by truth he would slay
Of this call'd his "Will" and the true one portray
She summoned her father now to her thought
And then on her vision the first "Will" was brought
As they talk'd it over in the bright wheat field
And other relations in it not reveal'd
And the knowledge in health he ever resolv'd
That no "Will" in his name should ever be call'd
This he had affirmed to her since her youth
And she knew in his heart he meant it for truth
Betsey's sister and her he confided there
When sick and resistless continually were
A pestering him to make for Betsey a "Will"
He did so in his weak state to keep them still
And that this was done the same week she arriv'd
And he did not know how it all was contriv'd
But when he consented a "Will" he would make
One unaided step across the room could not take
And he was dependent on them in his need
And had not the strength then against them to plead
But there you read "He was under no restraint"
When I was so weak had I pow'r to acquaint
Witness of my former life and present state
Any I could but only hope that soon or late
Justice would be done to meet my inward wish
The intrest of my heart centered on this

My children then around my memory came
In their infant forms as when I gave them name
But I was vapory all that sickness through
And little that transpired then can review
She took up that "Will" now again read it o'er
Her feelings resenting it through more and more
The offensive revery chaf'd on her mind
Like frost in the face that the wind leaves behind
She laid it down sadly that altered "Will" still
Having read and re-read it with heart aching
For the blood in her veines it seemed ran cold
Imposition so stalwart stood and so bold
Assurance now came briskly bounding she felt
Dispelling the shadows into fair light they melt
And came in a whisper then "Without alloy
There is now a justice in this world's employ
And justice will grow that no sin can decoy
And righteousness the wily ne'er can destroy
As the covered night beneath op'ning day
Will the schemings of falsehood dissolve in truth's ray
And now she believ'd some reliance was clea
Half heard yet more plain to her view did appear
This foregoing utterance speaking relief
Though it was convey'd in language so brief
To John W Ecret Susanna again wrote
To tell what remain'd of consequence in note
As she suppos'd in the history he sought
And so she related what she knew and thought
Most kindly he answered it and concise
And therein he did her counsel and advise
And information of desired amount
In future he offer'd without cost or count

For what he had done too he asked no fee
But the worth of his labour he gave to her free
When Susanna read this letter all over
She felt "That Wills false face yet will uncover
Ere this she had learned though from other source
That Witness if the law was put into force
Would not fare so well for his oath in case
And questioned he owned to its deface
That interlin'd writing he knew out of place
But could not remember just what to erase
Susanna was told of something she might do
But then came the kin of the Witness in view
The young and the bright the happy and the fair
The noble the learned and the lofty were there
And she thought it better to suffer the wrong
Than revengeful spirit herself to belong
And came to her memory "Without alloy
There now is a justice in this world's employ
And justice will grow that no sin can decoy
And righteousness the wily ne'er can destroy
As the lowered night beneath op'ning day
Will the schemings of falsehood dissolve in truth's rays"
Her father's property it was not great
But she wanted share in her rightful estate
As others had done she could own it to rent
To act as she chose was her father's intent
He did not design she should leave her good home
He would not for all his see her from it roam
And neither would she for the wealth of the state
Turn away from her home as a dark reprobate

And issues on her pensive vision array
As the morning awakening welcomes the day
Her mother with record in regaining light
Brighter and brighter on Susanna's eye sight
Till distinct appeared in the types known sign
What clearly in verses seem'd printed and fine ⁂
In her mother's book as by daylight illum'd
But not to be able to read it was doom'd
For not word or letter to utter she could
Yet plain as her newspaper printed it stood
From her mother's book glimses had pass'd her brain
Ere this as the light-nings' flash lightens the plain
When in glancing moment shows the landscape whole
And then back the heavy thick darkness does roll
The previous year was her mind thus allur'd
But meant nothing definite she e'er was assur'd
In flickerings coming that vanish'd in night
Or darkness that covered quickly the light
Now Susanna shudders at her mother's touch
And for resentment of will it was too much
Her mind and her senses seem'd as it were
Forced to subjection by her mother's pray'r
The book now arrang'd for Susanna to read
Though clear as meridian she could not proceed
The lines and the words and the letters were plain
But action to copy there from was in vain
For she show'd she wanted Susanna to take
Somethings from her book that she was to narrate
But emphasize could not the letters sublime
Nor could she repeat there the immortal rhyme
Susanna could read though the card sent to her
In her mother's hand in sensitive stir

⁂ As small but exquisit in form and finish

Settled this failure in her mother's face sad
But soon glow triumphant gleam'd on it glad
And her book re-open'd on Susanna's sight
To the pages pointing illustrated bright
Teeming in the colors and pulses of life
Its joys and its pleasures its conflicts and strife
And then to Susanna suggested the thought
That from the pictures might the substance be {brought
"Through great tribulation I have come out"
Was the impression that her influence brought
And then as a cloud that moves to the light
Appeared she rob'd in the purest white
Her soul breathed tender in sympathies art
And radience shone on humanities part
She stood in full vigor of fresh woman bloom
And diffus'd a sweetness akin to perfume
The card sent Susanna she held in her hand
(With names of officials who were in command)
From State Indiana the county of Clay
Address'd by the Clerk in the finest display
'Twas John W Ecret a man of the law
Her mother selected Susanna She saw
Then with penetration reviewed intent
Emotions of trust from her countenance went
Then came on the view her slates and her pencils
And she arose and procur'd these utensils
Leaned on the bosom in the arms entwin'd
Was she when the book open'd now on her mind
And thus in the arms of her mother embrac'd
Susanna was when the pictures she trac'd
The first that advanced for her to make note
Of her village home was in darkness remote

SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 337 a

Autobiography of Susanna Cole Liddell,
Union Village, Ohio

pages 1-65

Very respectfully is the inclosed manuscript presented under the title of "Susanna the Shakeress" Hoping that it may find favor and hoping also that she has been led by the Will of Divine Providence and his agents in executing it and not been deceived by any false influence or a too strong imagination

For the last several years she has scarcely had the strength at times to hold herself to earthly existence and duty because of a controling power upon her and in her And concerning which she ventures now to speak as a relief both to her mind and to her conscience

Her story would perhaps be the more briefly told and the better apologised for to narrate it along down from its beginning to the present time And with this conclusion she commences by saying that

In January 1871 she awoke from a sound dreamless sleep with a masculine voice sounding in her ear and soon discovered a shadowy form in the room At her look it enlivened into action and began drawing to itself relations and consolidating them into intensity of darkness darker than the night then in the New Moon It kept in a changing motion until there stood in her view a gentleman the size of life and in whom she recognized the likeness of a picture that she had seen of ADR

At this recognition of his picture and quick as thought was placed in her hands his book — This charming book she had previously read And was now turning its pages till coming to where was his picture when instantly he took on the same attitude that the picture in the book presented and all the look was the same

N D R now uttered a sentence including the name of a clergyman in New York state Never had she conceived of such reverence imbodied in the speaking of one persons name by another as N D R expressed in repeating this clergyman's name It seemed to ring back through volumes of precious memories And in the time of his sounding this name She saw the reverend clergyman walking a street in New York City unaccompanied and looking fatigued of body and weary of thought Her eyes followed him until he turned a corner on another street and was lost to her sight

"There he dare to be true" meaning in that place was now spoken by N D R Here the clergyman's name again thrilled on her sensibilities with a depth of regard and worth of friendship in one companion for another that she had never witnessed nor felt nor imagined And in the time of his repeating the word "There" she saw the reverend clergyman standing above all the steeples of some large city

Thence he cast his eyes down to the earth not with contempt not with regret but merely as on the things that were and from the fetters of which he was freed Then he viewed around the globe and looked off on the clouds brooding the heights of the forest His raiment was bright and it was wrought she thought

And in the time of this thought his countenance flushed and his whole appearance twinkled like a star in the consciousness of there being descended an angel from God and standing beside him This was known by his mein that he was an Angel from God as an officer is known by his manner of dress "Clothed with the sun" for radience was this Angel And after a time he raised his hand which emitted a glow like fiery coals and then turning face to face the clergyman laid the fiery hand on his head At the touch of the Angels hand the clergyman opened his mouth and preached the truths of the gospel Bright from Jehovah she thought They poured forth in streams of light and spread through the earth in searching flames that the alive in feeling might feel

The clarion notes sped through space far away rolled over the mountains and spanned the seas Then he waved the gospel banner portraying the emblems of the truths of the glorious estate that the alive in sight might see Biblical promises of the prophets shone therein and glowed from pole to pole

Now A D R informed Susanna that after

his spirit departure through death feeling that his career in the mortal body had been lacking in success and compensation of happiness desired As had been the confession of men and women since the days of yore And which unreconceliation still existed in the ultimate of events .

The cause of this unreconceleation primarly prompted him to travel through the world to ascertain whether a better condition of experiences in any organization or amongst any people were attained than he had hither to known And that his journeying terminated in arrival at this place Union Village by his meeting here a friend and father in one of the first elders of this society And who taught him a knowledge of the purposes of God which satisfied his conscience his hope of justification and peace with his Creator And that the faith of the elder and his people had become his faith And that he was now sent from the same church as the elder in the heavens above a missionary in this lower world

In the interest of his mission A D R seemed deeply in earnest vigorous and inexhaustable in action

He now said that he was privledged being a missionary to make examination for a medium in this place through whom might be conveyed tidings of this pure and living way And exercising the requisite analysis to this preparation In weight and measure of reverence affection and faith in this gospel of Mother he had found Susanna to be the fullest type amongst her equals raised at Union Village at the same time that she was And more he said under this head

While he spoke As a large map there was spread ~~out~~ before her concerning the manner of life of this community both temporal and spiritual and which he said should be written out by way of extending knowledge to those who were seeking for the truth and would obey its demands ~~when~~ concurring with ~~reconciled~~ to their convictions of need

Furthermore he pressed that the clergyman spoken of would declare in its favor "If believing" he added that such was my desire He would not refuse my request"

This struck her with fear of going too far She shuddered at the thought And instantly strove to banish the vision either as an imagination or something that if submitted to might mar her union with her brethren and sisters at home being aware that entire secrecy in the matter would be impossible which her feelings would require until her manuscript was finished at least

Ere this she had noticed midway the room what appeared like a column of Moon light standing And thought that it might be an emanation from the Shaker Elder referred to by ADR within which his spirit was shrouded At this supposition in a kind of releasing motion it exerted until appeared a stately form in the raiment of a Shaker brother showing transparency of character keen intelligence deep discernment strengthened through a conqueror's victory over sin and the nature thereof to the triumphs of redemption with his Lord and Saviour This education or discipline of his spirit was the first salutation met in his bearing emitting and evidencing an all glowing joy and unwaning power enthroned in the heart source of the supreme fervency of spirit and beautiful attraction that drew with such confidence and trust to the light of his countenance the wisdom of his counsel and the fullness of his love

The brother looked sorrowful at Susanna's determined efforts to bannish the vision and with heightening expression to A D R he said

"It has long been the intercession of the founders of this society who have put off the mortal body at this place that from the home of this their cherished hopes and dearest interests should again go forth to the world of mankind the glad tidings of salvation from sin and peace and eternal life and joy in the Holy Ghost as was given to them in the beginning of their faith Through some medium or called one imbued with the spirit and understanding of the original faith of the founders of this society at Union Village" And more he said to the same purport

Then turning to Susanna with a changing look and silent for a moment there was produced the image of herself at twelve years old on her knees praying to Mother Ann Lee's spirit in Heaven that she might never know any doctrine save that of her gospel as taught by herself and her faithful followers For even at that . age she knew that many had been led astray by other doctrines

The brother's eye bent on the suppliant with the tender preciousness of a parent discovering desired promise in a child

"You are a true daughter of this church at Union Village" he now said And owned by our blessed Mother and her people as your prayers have asked And should you not be willing to suffer and to work for a further planting of this way of God so precious to yourself and to all who walk therein" ?

In his words came the memory of Mother Ann Lee and her first followers in America traveling twenty miles to meeting and mostly at nights on account of persecution and scores of other instances showing equal devotion and perseverance He awaited her looking this history over and then repeated

"In view of all these energies and sufferings of Mother and the Elders Are you not willing to suffer nor to endure *anything* for this same cause of Truth for which they suffered so much And in which you have been so abundantly blessed"

No disapproval of A D R's arrangement relative to the clergyman was avered by the brother No interference indicated in the matter For it was understood it seemed that A D R in union with those who sent him had the full management of his own missionary work

The brother approved the plan of the map heretofore mentioned but did not dictate nor suggest anything concerning it

She could not extinguish her vision it kept her restless company The words and looks of the brother vivid and deep remained in her heart And censuring with ingratitude considering the privileges that she had enjoyed in the gospel not to comply with his wishes and finanly she fell into the following soliloquy

"But am I competent to go through what is required of me I got a first class certificate for grammer when I was examined in Lebanon in 1852 for a school teacher at the teachers' examination of course I know And I know too that I gave acknowledged satisfaction with my school of thirty seven scholars at home and and to the board of examiners My relatives looking through this county and elsewhere who have pursued intellectual avocations have succeeded better than those otherwise employed My mother's father was a Presbyterian preacher it is said and if so he must have had intelligence to be listened to by an assembly His sons were accounted reliable conscientious men and held elected offices of trust One a Justice of the Peace in this county over forty years

"My father's father was being educated to a profession when called into the Revolutionary war in his sixteenth year for a soldier called major after the war by his comrades

"In my lineage given to me on my father's side I read high intellectual characters and as I am said to take after this side of my kindred perhaps I too may have a fraction in me yet undeveloped in an intellectual line"

This inward rehersal at last she concluded by trying to hold firmly the flattery of her own might be faculties through those of her kindred And commenced the composition after the manner shown to her on the map dimly seeing and pursuing along and over the faint sketches which she was left to work into color or mold into original shapes and animation as best she could And she was diligent in the improvement of her leisure as far as she could command retirement

Although every day with rare exceptions she could gain an hour or more of leisure yet living in the room with three sisters and all three younger than herself she was seldom sure of an hours retirement during the day Her home was in our largest family residence 4 stories (in height) (builded in 1844 pressed brick slate roof from Scotland estimated at forty thousand dollars when finished The "House Part" so called fifty by eighty eight The front eighty eight facing to the east. Joining on the western side was a T part usually called the kitchen part also four storys high and thirty eight by one hundred and eight)

The second year after we moved into this house it accommodated one hundred and eighty eight at table including the children their caretakers and a few others who dwelt in smaller buildings near by but belonging to the same family

At the time of this vision the family was not so large as here described yet large enough to keep up the tramp every where and all the time seemingly And there was not a garret nor a cellar room even exempted from public storage lock but in which all had equal advantages and consequently she could never entertain a hope of the good luck of finding there but a little while at a time unfrequented

The room in which she lived was a north east corner room third story and one of the largest in the house four twenty four pane windows and an ample clothes room attached

Into this clothes room she might if she chose seclude herself in safety after the girls had gone to bed and were asleep But unfortuneately they liked to set up better than she did So her time thus postponed must inevitably reach far into the night to be of much account and often preying on her vitality in need of rest Still she persevered in this way of agonizing sleep until she had written over twelve sheets of foolscap paper By this time so to speak she opened the door of her unbelief and called up all her former doubts to sustain her in branding herself a lunatic for thus attempting to write and laid her pen away

But there after repose of mind she could not summon for the visions frequent repetition And at last being persuaded by cautious reasoning that she could not find relief except in compliance with the inflexible demands of her vision She began again her nightly toil and was industrious thereat until the summer came when she grew idle concerning it But this expatiation of easy mind and thought was suddenly brought to a close by the quick entrance of A D R into her room with an air of one having no time to lose and expressing disappointment at her "neglegence" as he counter termed her absence from writing While repeating the word "neglegence" all her intervals of leisure came, before her like so many witnesses of accusation

"I cannot risk the observation of comers in and goers out when I am trying to think" sadly she replied And any how I have been hard to work all summer and have not been able to set up of nights to write" At this immediately citing her over the drafted future brightening under his hand And continuing urging his exortation to go to her writing She obeyed And on this night she stayed up later than ever before having a better gift to write than at any previous time And falling asleep in her chair She dreamed that she had finished her writings and they were received and that it was said of them by whom accepted

"Taken as a whole it is a thing of merit but a good deal tangled in places"

This dream gave her a stronger trust in her vision and a new hope gleamed there from on the future and stimulating her to the closest application

Time passed on

And Summer again fresh greeted the world
The ripening grape on the tendril curl'd
The flowers opened tints in the garde
Products of the garden our labor rewarde
The grain full garner'd from the bare reap'd field
The bending orchard bestowing its yield
And
In rev'ry leisure delighted her look
From far and near aspect happiness took
Beside her rais'd window in twilight view
When settles the evening and dampens the dew

The pliable boughs of the cool shade trees
Move graceful and true in the breath of th. breeze
The birds encircling that sport on the wing
Till hide 'neath the leaves with morrow to sing
And too
The langor of heat in the long days to work
Which follow with weariness days that are short
The weakness of morning the new day begins
The bounty of th seasons that industry wins
In this panorama of incoming growth
And duties attendent to night work was loth

And gradually her vision dimmed into vagueness and her constancy into "negligence" Still hoping that time and inattention would indelibly erase it and she be relieved of the strange and dreaded burden

Such was her half anticipation until when returning from the Cincinnati Exposition in September 1873 Taking sick of a sudden then she arose and went out of the car to get the fresh air Closing the door a jolt of the car pitched her on the steps leading to the ground and grazing instant death How she was rescued and put on her feet again was unaccountable to herself but she was glad to notice that she had been unobserved Violently trembling she reopened the door and retraced her steps, made difficult from the effects of her fright along the rocking passage back to her vacated seat This narrow escape of her life then threw her thoughts on the past and she said to herself "What if death had been Would there be aught to regret having done for which there has not been amends Or is there aught left undone which should have been done that could longer hold my spirit to the earth"

With this last inquiry there came crowding embodied all the doubts of mind All the suppressions of faith All the stiffness of will and tardiness of application to the composition demanded In one astounding crash it came seemingly crushing all her bones by its weight of prey Fiery burning sparks crossed her eyes meantime and lightnings scored her body through and through while rebukes pierced her sinking heart like the flinching flesh of man pierced by the surgeons lancet And neither could she breathe by reason of the comprehension why this judgment had fallen upon her And her soul cried out in this affright "Let me live now and I will believe and I will finish the composition if it takes my life" And then as an icicle's drop of water A shiver fell center her heart and recalling in full her vision of 1871

When our station was called Susanna was so overpowered that she could not walk alone And two sisters one each side helped her off the train and to the platform where the brethren were waiting with their teams to take us home

Having entered the bus and she seated between the two sisters trying to keep her braced The horses going over an obstacle in the dark woods road she being all limberness In the bound of the bus she fell over and was jolted back and forth at the feet of the passengers entirely helpless When her condition was understood that she was too weak to help herself in the least Then a fatherly brother lifted her and carried her home like a mother her infant

Some weeks after having returned from the Exposition And a lady spiritual medium coming on a visit to see a relative in our family who promised "settings" with the sisters if they would be pleased to have, desired them And susanna ever desirous of further convincing proof concerning her vision of 1871 together with its following associations of the same nature And more especially to see if the medium would say any thing about her late rail road experience She went into a company of younger sisters assembled for a "setting" The medium made a place for her beside herself locked her right hand with Susanna's left hand and when all the hands were thus locked around the circle and layed upon the table inviting spiritual manifestations Susanna whispered to the medium

"If you see any thing for me will you be kind enough to please tell me of it afterwards" She nodded assent consented so to do But the first one spoken to was Susanna The medium throwing back her head twitching in every limb and her rosy face blanching to a livid whiteness she said to Susanna "There is something that you aught to do and you know what it is"

After a while recovering herself to her usual composure she began talking to the others in the circle of the "appearances" that came to her view in relation to them.

Susanna leading the medium aside after the "sitting" was dismissed She enquired "Why was it so much harder for you to see for me than for any one else of the circle" At this the medium instantly dropped into a low chair beside her and convulsing from head to foot and turning deathly pale she exclaims ~~repeated~~ There is something that you aught to do and you know what it is as I saw at the "sitting" and I see it again A strong intellectual stream is pouring through you and you are trying to suppress it You are afraid to give it vent I feel it all over me that you aught not to quench the spirit that is striving with you"

Susanna now stimulated with attraction towards the medium and feeling all confidence in her gift She disclosed at the mediums visible inquisitiveness her whole visionary experience from January 1871 until the then present date She gazing on Susanna the while with surprize When Susanna was done she asked the medium the question "Do you believe this" "Of course I do every word of it" She promptly replied

This interview was another fresh spur to Susanna promise to "Finish the composition if it takes my life" For verily she felt at this juncture that her soul was on the pivot of excommunication from God if the fulfilling of this promise was not entered upon as her first duty—

And on the evening of this same day she related the whole burden in every particular concerning her vision of 1871 with each incident afterwards coming in connection with it to eldress E— Towards the close of Susanna's recital eldress E— evincing uneasiness at her loss of time Arose looked out of the window where they two were seated Then casting a glance of mirthfulness on Susanna escaped from her presence without saying a word To weep was the only relief or comfort now that Susanna had left so she felt And sorrowfully sank her spirit in the days lowering sunlight that thinly ~~faintly~~ flecked the departing landscape with its backward glints And while she watched without and while within were fevered memories ~~roaming~~ through her brain The stars came bright "in the [illegible]" ~~upon~~ the depths above On the arch of clouds ~~and~~ their fair lights as of Angel faces she thought touched on her heart like the "punctuating pen" of prophetic hope in sight And when the darkness And when the darkness had brought the night her thoughts were living hosts that marched those higher realms The limitless regions of the starry skies had never appeared so grandly wonderful to her conception before And kept her inspiring com pany until the morning for sleep came not to her that night

A while before dinner the next day One of the brethren near Susanna's age with whom she had resided in the same family since the time that she came into the village to live Unexpectedly opened the milk room door where she was at work and said to her in a sarcastic manner

"If you keep on with your foolery you will make a subject of yourself for the insane asylum" And more he said to the kind ~~point~~ equally unwelcome This brother had always been obliging ~~kind~~ and helpful to Susanna as he had the name of being to all the sisters Consequently his manner and language on this occasion was the more afflicting She guessed what he meant That eldress E— through her natural mirthfulness had told him of her vision and the most that she had confided to her the night before Susanna did not retaliate with the brother nor excuse herself in the least he delivered his warnings to her without her objecting to them in word But when he was through and gone she shook with grievous agitation and was so sick that she could not taste of dinner Before he came she was weak and trembling from the loss of sleep and sensitive irritation of the previous night

Near supper time of the same day One of the youth boys came into the dairy and related over to Susanna quite correctly her secret to eldress E— and asking pitteously "Is it so" as though fearing that some harm or blame might come to her in the matter She replied

"When I divulged to eldress E— what you have been relating I told her that I held it the greatest secret of my life and would rather have all the sins known that I had ever committed than to have that vision and what came after it in a visionary way circulated through the family. Understanding eldress E's— incredulity on the subject of visions it cost me severe sacrifice of feeling to expose to her my visionary moods But I believed that it was my duty because of the capacity in which she stood as my eldress according to one of the rules of our society To keep nothing hid from the visible lead This you know And in the observance of this rule I have always been conscientious

"Before the Exposition I would have disclosed to eldress E— what had transpired up to that date of those visionary occurrences had I not entertained something of a hope that in sum and substance the entire thing might eventually wear away and come to nothing"

"It is all around the house now" he hurried out "The girls that live in the room with you have told one and another that you had been setting up late of nights to write for weeks and weeks"

This information was very stinging to Susanna's now exhausted and unresisting sensibilities

Time rolled on A clai
ed for member ship into
admitted into a young be
quently she removed into
Family" March 1844 Whe
strangers waiting to hear
ced to new comers she w
"My name is Laura" Som
further pressed she wou
is the name by which I

A day or two after Laura
ily Susanna went into he
being the first time that
speak with her consequ
to the new sister It was
Laura was intelligent S
was of tender fine feelin
manner An hour had
able company when her
was shockingly terminat
ly pale laying back her he
chair tipping and fall
near where she was sitt
soled by the weight of boo
right arm had been res
as stricken with death

Susanna saw A D R in
she was scared lest she
now stroked her hand
chest and such ghast
never beheld in her li

lairvoyant medium appli-
nto our society She was first
g believer family Subse-
into this the "Center" or "First
Whenever responding to
hear name or being introduc-
he would invariably inform
Sometimes feeling herself
would further add "Laura
h I am known
ura's removal into our fam
o her room for a visit this
hat she had met Laura to
quently a total stranger
was soon manifest that
t soon perceived that she
elings and gentle overbore
had not elapsed in her agree-
er entertaining conversation
rated by her turning unearth-
r head her eyes closed her
alling against the wall
itting beside a table made
books and on which her
resting and she appearing
th
influencing Laura yet
she might be dying Laura
d over her neck and
astly agonies Susanna had
life time before At length

Laura painfully cried "O who is here" Then answered her own question by speaking out in full his name whose initials are A D R At this mention of his name A D R reached to shake hands with the medium and saying "I am happy to make your acquaintance" She drew back from him with the inquiry "Why are you here" He explained "It had been my conviction for many years that there should be more peace and joy in the world than had yet been attained And after death searching for conditions conferring the most successfully to this end I found them in this institution I am an apostle of its faith a worker in its cause" A pause ensued and he added "I am a Shaker in its tenets" Another pause and Laura straightened up in her chair life resuming its action of limb and rippling in color animating her face After a little rest she interrogated Susanna to learn whether she had ever had any previous knowledge of this spirit Susanna gave her a concise hearing of her vision of 1871 and of all that followed appertaining to it as she had given it to the first medium and tried to detail ~~give~~ it to eldress E When through Susanna requested the medium to state to eldress E concerning this manifestation of A D R She did so and somewhat converting the eldress to a more considerate opinion in Susanna's case

Laura had been a member of our family but a short time when by urgent request she had been induced to go to Crystal City Mosouri with a lady who came after her in the interest of a party of that city whereby to gain her services at looking up for them with her spiritual sight the best deposits of their underground wealth in lead it being believed that metal existed in their locality or at least in Washington county

When Laura arrived at Crystal City there were being remodaled or additional building to the establishments for the manufactoring of glass. she was detained until the accomplishment thereof Then she was guided through the structures and about the machenery for her spiritual inspection to ascertain whether there were any imperfections in the arrangements She decided that all were true excepting one flue that she pointed out to them It was examined and pronounced perfect Then the lady who came after her brought her home

In less than a month's time after Laura's return home she was written too from Crystal City that something in their works was wrong and requesting her spiritual sight to see what the difficulty was Opening the letter she saw at once that flue which she had pointed out as defective when at Christal City and immediately wrote "I see that flue does not draw correct that and all will go right" The writer of her letter wrote one at the same time to a mechanic in Philadelphia Pensylvania to come and examine their works Both letters were dropped into the Postoffice together Laura's answer had been received before the mechanic arrived there He found the obstruction in that same place repairing that all moved satisfactorilly This they wrote to her as a tribute of respect to the genuineness of her spiritual gift

It was said by those acquainted with this clarvoyant lady before she came into our society to live that they had never detected nor heard of a single mistake that she had ever made in her mediumship

Laura related when applying for membership into our community that a female spirit calling herself Mother Ann Lee Appeared to her in a time of great sorrow and advised her to go to the Shaker society at Union Village Ohio for a home She had never heard the name Mother Ann Lee before nor of the people called Shakers Ere this she had often yearned in heart and spirit for something better than being a weary wanderer and depending for her bread soly on her clarvoyant gift exhausting her strength more and more and her rightful pay frequently withheld from her limited need It was pittiful to hear her tell the numerous and various instances in which she had been defrauded in this way owing chiefly no doubt to her shrinking timedness in demanding her own This she could not do though starvation had brought his pall before her eyes for the sacrificed skeleton It would seem almost incredible how strong wealthy men would extort her strength nearly to the last breath to see for them and then leave her with only a promise of recompense (and not always that) never fulfilled

The following is one of the instances that she related in this train As we remember it.

She was in a depot awaiting the cars with a lady and her husband who were to pay her passage and see her off She had done much satisfactory spiritual seeing for them They merely giving her her board during her stay in their family And now being done with her were sending her to an acquaintence of theirs And where she might or might not for aught she knew find a resting place for a while Meditating on this and that she had not a dollar in the world

A man entered the company who had a newspaper reputation for financial ability and a large income recognizing Laura and knowing who she was he surveyed her for a moment with marked interest Then walked out of doors In the course of a few minutes he reappeared having two bits of white folded paper in his hand and going to where Laura was seated nervously asked her aside in the room where he opened out the two bits of paper and said "These are notes that I have written myself yet somehow I am puzzled with them" explaining his affairs to which the notes related

She saw his mistake and substituted the needed deficiency "I see it now" he owned smiling and hastily departing with "I'll be back"

Laura watched him in his warm costly attire speeding through the wintry cold from the window on the sill of which she had rectified his notes to a magnificently fronted building a block up the street A hope of some reward, fluttering in her heart After a lapse of from a quarter to half an hour She saw him coming out of the door of the house that she had seen him enter and descending its long high flighted marble steps through a crowd of talking walking smoking restless eyed men directing his way towards the depot His head thrown back in its shining beaver evincing satisfaction in his face and corpulent gait his gold watch chain visible through his wraps And headed cane the precious luring mettle the sun shine glittered on

"He is coming fast" her emotions encouraged and swelling her heart the more with joy and quicker beat To her expectant eyes out and out he looked the prosperous business man his reputation filled She trusted in these assurances strengthening her confidence in the reward that she was praying for

The worldly enriched man marching into the depot and glancing over the company in the room for Laura until discovering her Then crossing the floor to the window where he had left her standing and where she still stood awaiting his return

When he had come near to her and began speaking the frost in his address and atmosphere was more piercing to her disappointed heart than the frost in the zero draughts outside to her thinly clad body Her prayer was sinking and dying within her He congratulating her profusely on the perfection of her spiritual gift Informing her meantime that she had saved him three thousand dollars He did not offer her a cent though he well knew her humiliating dependence He seemed to allow that the honor of his praising her gift sufficient

The reader may pause here and mentally inquire "What has this narative of the said Laura's history to do in this connection" The writer answers "Chiefly to make known that one of the the truest of spiritual mediums has made a loyal and faithful Shaker sister the only instance of a distinguished modern medium as yet being a success in a Shaker Society +

In July 1874 Susanna had finished the manuscript under notice and went to eldress E— for her consent to send it to the clergyman in question (A D R having insisted on Susanna doing so assuring that the clergyman would assist him in disseminating the principles of this better way in union with the Angel of God commissioned for that purpose) eldress E— started at Susanna's *presumption* as her looks indicated and saying with sternness

" How can you think of such a thing as that when you know that eldress S— (the first female in the ministerial order in the village) regards you as she does on account of your writings And think too how you would feel at being refused as you certainly would be"

"I would feel that I had obeyed an authority, which I dare not to disobey" She returned

---

Now bringing up the drawbridge of all Susanna's pathes to September 1874 When a friend in whom she had a right to place confidence was just returned from the vicinity in which her father lived and telling her of her father's feeble health and other things which would naturally interest a daughter or a son

It occurred to her in the following month that this information might be converted into a business necessity which none could object to under the circumstances And so consulting eldress E— upon the subject who half comprehending Susanna's planning as Susanna was aware Asked "Why have you started up now all at once Why were you not so anxious at first by this report"

Susanna pleaded that every one would think that she ought to go who understood the state of things" And then took the courage to confess that it would give her an opportunity when out there to attend to her other business That if she should send what she had written from her father's house with his approval the society to which she belonged would not be blamed for what she might do"

"I supposed that you were up to something of that kind" she retorted And I do not expect that you will ever give that thing up until you have run the risk for which you have set yourself"

Susanna urged the necessity of the case notwithstanding eldress E—s opposition And entreating of her to intercede with eldress S— for her to go to Indiana on the business made known to her through her informant

Eldress E— presented Susanna's appeal to eldress S— who met it with "That's another device of hers in relation to her writings and I cannot give her my permission to go"

Time journeyed on until February 1875 when Susanna again went to eldress E— This time weeping and saying to the eldress that the weight of the obligation to which she felt herself pledged was a burden heavier than she was able to bear up under and keep her health

Mingled sympathy and endeavor now seemed to move eldress E—s heart in Susanna's favor And she believed that eldress E— would aid her if she could

Eldress S— was dangerously ill at this period and finally gave her consent for Susanna to go to Indiana on the business made known by the information from that place

Accordingly Susanna left her home for Dayton February twenty sixth 1875 remaining there over night at her sister's residence

The next day she took passage on the cars for Calcutta Clay county Indiana Arrived at her fathers five o'clock P. M. and found him confined to his bed and not expected to live until the next morning But from this night he began to slowly recover And when he became strong enough to give his atten to her She acquainted him with the details of her story and asking his advice in the matter He replied "You are of age Susanna Do what you think is right"

With this she ventured to send the statement of her vision of 1871 with what she had copied from the dim map seen in the same vision previously spoken of Also an accompanying letter of explanation inclosed

She forwarded her sealed documents to the clergyman by express (from Brazil Carbon not having an express office then) which was received by his wife who answered Susanna as follows +++

"Your package reached us yesterday Mr— desires me to say that it was not in his power to command the time necessary to examine the package sent We are overwhelmed with packages of a similar nature" +++

Reading this letter rushed the blood to Susanna thoughts and feelings so sufficating that she could hardly see out of her eyes But remembering her promise "I will finish the composition if it takes my life" She rallied and braced her energies to write again This time to the clergymans wife who had answered concerning her package in stead of himself *++

Susanna's Letter

+++ "I pray that neither yourself nor your distinguished husband will attribute fabrication to the vision stated I am aware that many persons are averse to visions I do not seek them myself although they have ruled the most vital events of my life and strongly against my will at the time of each instance The first of these was the appearance of my deceased mother when ten years of age directing me to leave my father's house to go and live with his sister for whom I was named amongst the Shakers at Union Village Warren county Ohio" +++

The clergyman's wife answered the above letter thus

+++ "It will be impossible for Mr— to give his time to the examination of your M.S.S.— Nor after a hasty glance over it do I see any thing in it of sufficient importance to urge him to depart from his long established rule" +++

This letter smote Susanna's heart with a violence unutterable in its emotions & colors of mortification as she said to herself

"Mrs— did not understand She seems to have thought that it was meant for her illustrious husband to renounce his profession worldly honors and social cares to come to Union Village and be a Shaker along side of the other brethren And if such were her interpretation from what was presented She surely must have judged only insanity on the ground of such a prospect

Susanna requested her writings returned if not accepted giving direction to have them addressed in her name in care of Mrs — Dayton Ohio

On her way home June ~~third~~ 4th 1875 she called at the said Mrs — to whom she had entrusted her package for safe keeping and ~~to her grateful satisfaction~~ found that it had been received and laid away unopened awaiting her coming by that true and dear lady

Susanna took it home and after days of deliberate consideration concerning it feeling thankful exceedingly thankful the while that her offering had been refused her judgment finally deciding its entire annihilation so that her heretofore burdened spirit would no longer be environed in the darkness of doubt No more the dread apprehension of not knowing whether something in the nature of a sentence so to speak of more or less condemnation was impending over her clouded future

Having thus concluded she hastily reviewed the manuscript after which she rolled it in her hands and wrung it like a cloth opened the stove door and laid it inside with pine kindlings applying ~~to the sacrifice~~ a lighted match to make sure that it never could be reproduced She watched the burning gleed of its consuming The twists writhed and fell apart page by page expanding in the reaching tongues of scarlet flame At last the blaze and smoke were spent And on the ashes lay the black and quiet pile that a breath could scatter to the winds as weightless as a thistle's down

Then going to her duties Calm and complacent was her contemplation her conscience approving and justified in the alleviation of believing that she had exerted to her uttermost and had performed her whole promised obligation in the matter to the best of her understanding and ability and gladdened her heart in the satisfaction that now it was over and her spirit sang in the exhileration free as a bird in the bush that has the unbounded air for its song and its flight And never had she anticipated such felicity as now enlivened her hopes Neve had she imagined that this side the grave was the unbroken immensity of happiness that she was enjoying Unseen but strongly sensed comforters came to her meditation the compass round dispensing peace and consolation and promotive of assurances to abide with her And as the manna that rained down from heaven to the emancipated Hebrews from the Egyptian yoke There fell to her effusions from above that thrilled in cheering tokens of unending bliss The inspiring songs of Zion thronged to her mind day in and day out And for nearly [illegible] succeeding years banquetted her inner life continually in this blessed ministration of the goodness and attendance of invisible communion and companionship When

This vacation of tranquil delight
From the disturbing disquiets of life

Had come to a change in 1877 by an aged sister residing across the street in the first brick house built (1817) in the village for a large family residence opposite the dwelling house in which Susanna lived

This aged sister invited Susanna to come and stay with her at night for a while as she had not recently been having a room mate Susanna consented to do so provided that she be allowed to have her bed in the room adjoining an inside door opening between them This she asked requested for the sake of having more air in the room at night than the aged sister would want as she knew

Susanna's preference of sleeping room was readily granted and she went

The third night that she occupied there the spirit of her mother appeared to her as seen on page first of "Susanna the Shakeress"

At this her mother's first coming * she was clothed in glittering white Other wise appearing as when a native of this world in her usual health only more refined But now in expression of countenance solemn and burdened

She had a card of Susanna's in her right hand And in her left arm she held what appeared to be a large blank book such as are used for records or keeping accounts Susanna thought it was her mother's journal kept by her self

This was May 2nd 1877 The same day that Susanna had received the card in her mother's hand which was inclosed in a letter from the clerk of the Court of Brazil Clay Co Indiana in answer

---

* See "Susanna the Shakeress" first page

to a letter of inquiry concerning her father's affairs that she had written to the Probate judge of the Court of Brazil Clay Co Indiana

On Susanna's card in her mother's possession were printed the names of the lawyers and different officials of said court The mother reading these names over stopped at each one as though beholding on a prospect the life or character beyond the individual under her notice At last she placed her forefinger on the name J.W.-- Susanna understanding that he was her mother's choice But as being more certain her mother set her eye again on this name to what went out of it the ~~secnd~~ second examination settling in a still deeper confidence

Now the mother laid the book in her arm on Susanna's bed and opening it reviewed pages through it from place to place but frequently glancing at Susanna meantime At length closing her book with a sigh and turning an undefined ~~inconceivable~~ look on Susanna that made her tremble she vanished with the book and card

Susanna could not feel suited with the brief information relative to her father's affairs contained in the letter from the clerk of Brazil Clay County Indiana And after reasoning and consulting with herself for a week or two her first objectionable impressions on perusing it not lessening She finally presented the letter to the lawyer and Notary Public of the Village of her home for his opinion

He slowly and carefully reading it aloud at its close remarked that it must have been considered false or of no account else it would have been probated (the letter stated the "Will was not probated) And advised her to be at rest regarding it The courts of a county were obleged to do justice in such matters he said

Susanna had also been told that it was not looked upon as respectful to interfere about the "Last Will" of a parent or person under a year from date of death.

The lawyer's counsel failed to reconcile Susanna she believed that injustice was at work in the compass of her fathers estate some how or in some way This foreboding was ~~aided~~ assisted by the memory of a letter she had received from Mr ⁂ A grand noble good man and who had been from first acquaintance a kind friend to her father in life

It was he who wrote her father's "Will" in February 1875 He was Notary Public at that time He of whom her father had bought the land he wrote the "Will" about He was a preacher In his church her father was accounted a faithful member in attendance of the divine service under his ministration

As soon after Susanna's arrival at her fathers as he was able to think and to talk a little He ~~asked~~ enquired of her if she would ~~to~~ represent his presence in Mr — s congregation while he would be absent therefrom And she remained with him She consented to do so Yet ever at the signal alarm of that church for gathering the people his eyes would follow to her to see if she were ready

---

⁂ See page 74 of "Susanna the Shakeress" for starting to the church But she needed not his watchfulness to urge her to the fulfiling of her promise in this respect She liked herself to be in the house of worship at her own home where her eyes had been accustomed to raise in prayer for what would help her on in the divine life mingling with the saints the founders of the society the fathers & mothers of the Israel on earth Having confidence that the offerings of her heart would be more surely accepted being in such company than if in her own individual supplication and she made partaker of the blessings granted from above with these her revered superiors leading the way before

As Jacob of old trusted that he would be regarded for his fathers sake if not for his own And she like to unite in the singing of the heavenly songs of Zion that bore her thoughts and thanksgivings in concert with all the convened whom the Father had called from the founders of the community down to the last seeking one at the gate to the eternal ~~realms~~ spheres on high whence were drawn responsive fruition in fullness of present contentment and peace and in refreshing of spirit as the vivifying shower to the drinking earth

She found a measure of the same spirit of prayer and Christian devotion in the church assemblages here that characterized those of her own home meetings

She admired the Rev. divine in his discourses to the people His well chosen words his concerned earnest manner of address and voice that wearied not His physiognomy had wearing a look of being more than an equa to any obstacle he could ever encounter in this world Stout and strong in physical stature and powerful of inward force And who neglected not to give her a passing notice when the meeting was ~~closed~~ let out either by pleasant observation stopping at her seat on his way out thro the aisle of the Church or other approving recognition of her attendance in her father's stead His estimable wife at his side his equal in port and a host within herself of peace motherly goodness and loveliness also noticed Susanna at such times and never departing without inviting her to come and see them

She went once to their elegant residence and was met and led into a strikingly furnished room by the preacher's wife and seated in a damask cushioned rocking chair her husband was sitting near a window facing piles of books reading a newspaper No doubt Susanna manifested inquisitive delight at the magnificent display adorning the room For the preacher explained when her eyes were on the clock that it was a rail road clock and how he came to buy it and further telling the history and prices of several different pieces of furniture in the same range of expense The lady also showed Susanna the covers of her beds such as she had never seen before for beauty still and many things besides of rare construction and choice treasures to her and charmingly interesting to Susanna

Susanna's errand to ~~the preacher's home~~ there was to carry a newspaper ~~there~~ which had been sent to her from Dayton Ohio with a marked article in it of praise to the preacher and his congregation written by a young gentleman of the city of Dayton Ohio A nephew of hers who had come on a visit to his grand father on a visit and went with her to attend the church his grandfather belonged to And after returning to his office in Dayton he wrote and set up the account of the meeting in one of his newspapers He was a printer and set up three newspapers

Thus this day was spent in busy thoughts and memories

But when the night had come and the things of the day were losing their acuteness on her sensibilities in sleepiness her mother appeared the second time as seen on pages second and seventy five of "Susanna the Shakeress"

Her mother now looked more glorious than at her first appearing The contents of pages in the book at first met her view before the book itself and finer than the finest engraved type Not small but exquisit in form and finish And the pictures finer than the finest engravings or painted pictures that Susanna had ever seen In finish form and color

Looking in the book at a plate of pictures of persons or and scenery it seemed touched into sensitiveness action and came forth in the colors and pulses of life as real persons and things of material size without dimming or effecting the pictures in the book

Now the mother read the card of Susannas from Brazil Clay county Indiana that was in her hand as she had did done at her first coming only not so minutely and then placed her finger on the name I W+ + and dictated words for Susanna to write to him requesting his kindness to her in the matter of her rightful claim in what her father had left for her

The next morning Susanna wrote Mr + + the whole of her dream or vision without reserve After which she watched the mail for an answer from J W + + six weeks And at the end of that time concluding that she need not wait any longer on him And examined her card for another name And wrote of her rightful claim to the one prefered But while she wrote her mother's fore finger pointed to J W + + on the card in her mother's hand ⁘

Susanna's father deceased November 18th 1876. She defered until the sevententh of the following November When she went to Dayton to see her sister Mary and be with her on the 18th The day that their father would be dead one year And to show Mary the long letter she had written to Mr J W + + (The Lawyer of the court of Brazil Clay Co Indiana in relation to whom Mary had spoken to her some time before coming to Susanna's home to see her for that purpose ⁘) Susanna's letter was answered by Mr J W + + and more than fulfilling her apprehensions of wrong doing in her fathers affairs which had troubled her since the first reading of the clerks letter already refered to And Mr J W + even took the pains to copy her father's Will for her. We now extract from the letter enclosed in the Will. Thus.

"+ + Nov 19th 1877 + + + I would first state that you are laboring no doubt under a false impression as to your claim in your father's estate I therefore send you a copy of his Last Will as the same is proved

⁘ page 76 seventy six in Susanna the Shakeress and entered of record in the clerks office of this county which Will gives all of his real estate to Elizabeth" + + +

Susanna wrote another letter to Mr J W + + after this date And informing him wherein her fathers Will had been altered

(It was March fourth 1875 when her father had been helped out of his bed wrapped in a quilt and seated in a rocking chair before the fire while his bed could be made The man who[10] performed this duty went immediately out of the house and down the street As he went out the preacher entered the room with a white folded paper in his hand showing it to her father and saying "I could not get the time until this morning to copy this" Her father motioned him to the head of his bed being too week to speak only in faint whisper The preacher stepped and placed it between the ticks at the head of the bed and went out of the front door No one was in the room but Susanna and her father when the preacher came and went She was making his bed when turning over the feather tick she discovered the white folded paper the preacher had ~~hid~~ placed there She took it to ~~him~~ hert and opening it before his eyes laughingly said I have found what the preacher ~~put~~ hid at the head of your bed. Faintly smiling he said Yes I see That is my purported Will But it will never do you any harm You can read it if you want too but do not let any one see you with it and put it back when you get through with it Sometime if I ever get able we will take a walk and you can read it to me and

and we will talk the matter over It was very hard for her father to whisper this much and hard for her to hear and fit the words together in so many all gone pauses. And this was one reason why his Will had to be ~~altered~~ copied as she subsequently learned from him, his low whispers a absence of that strength in ~~and~~ all gone pauses between his words and going back and forth on ~~his~~ discourse Reading talking singing or some kin of a noise had to be kept up about his bedside to keep his "mind from going off" as he termed it. His sickness commenced with a fever cold and heavy chill when he was given heavily of quinine in portions at regular hours and which was continued in little portions at given hours night and day for many weeks and some of the neighbors said that it was the quinine that made him so flighty When her father was carried and laid in his bed again after she had made it ready for him, and she had read him to sleep. She slipped away by herself and carefully read the Will through three or four times and then secreted placed it between the straw ticks where it would not be so easily discovered It was written on a half sheet of common school foolscap paper And when it was doubled with the ends even together and then folded again not a word of the writing could be seen It was very white new looking paper Susanna remarked this to her father "Yes" he whispered "It was the preachers paper He said he would copy it off on a nice piece of paper of his own as we had none here that was suitable I was so near gone it was hard to get that Will out of me I could scarcely hold the top of the pen while the preacher wrote my name They had to support my arm to do it and much more he said to the same purport

Susanna extracts from the next letter of Mr. J.W++
hich reads +++

“February 19th 1878 +++ Yours of the 14th ult was duly received ++ and the delay in answering it has been occasioned for ant of time as our court has been in session until the ast week since which time I have been trying to find out ome plan by which you might have justice done you in re ard to your father's estate I saw Mr — in reference to he altered Will but he could not point out wherein the Will ad been changed but stated that it had been changed hen another bad feature in the case is that he is the one hat proved the Will and could not well go back on his affida vit” +++

Susanna's Village lawyer also wrote for her to Mr J.W+++ and received the following

+++ “April 19th 1878 +++

Dear Sir Yours of the 3rd inst duly received and contents noted And in answer would say that I have examined the matter carefully in reference to the claim of Miss Susanna — in her father's estate and have called in consultation four other gentlemen of the legal profession and we are unable to conceive of any plan whereby she can get her just rights So far as a fee is concerned I would willingly do without any fee in this case if that would secure Miss — her just rights I would take her word so far as a fee is concerned if there was any chance to procure her claim I have written to Miss — to day giving her my views fully in the matter” +++

When Susanna received the letter and copied Will from Mr. J.W++ she immediately wrote to the preacher after reading both over and told him of having received a copy of her father's Will and where in it had been altered Also copying the Will sitting up that night that night until it was finished and mailing it and her the letter both to the preacher the next morning that he might see for himself wherein it had been altered He replied to her in answering letter thus.

++I believe she was named in the Will Betsy and not Elizabeth +++ (Susanna had never heard her called any name but Betsy since her first memory) This is not as full as I might write it but I hope it will be satisfactory as you have seen the Will and read it in your father's life time I suppose this is sufficient +++ I have not examined the Will since I wrote it and only from recollection speak of it as I said to you any information I can give you I will to aid you in obtaining your rights as justice ought to bear rule though the Heavens fall +++ I understand there was some interlining done in the Will I do not know only as I have been told so If so the Will can be easily broken +++ My son who is one of the witnesses says that the Will was altered But I do not know whether it would pay you to go to the expense and trouble to do it when the others would come in" ++ Meaning that the other heirs had taken no steps in the matter

Her sister Mary though had written to Mr J W++ after she received the letter and card from the clerk of the court of Brazil Clay county Indiana the same as he sent to Susanna

After the date of November 1877 Susanna wrote to one and another of the neighbors with whom she had become somewhat acquainted during her three months stay at her fathers in 1875 to learn what she could about her fathers fraud handled affairs

May second 1878 Susanna's mother came with book and card as at both her previous appearings Her first soundless words to her were "I come for humanities sake" And further signifying that she was sent and under heavy sorrow on her part to do what she was to do ⁖

* * *

When Susanna had finished writing the narative of her mothers visits She meditated reasoned and counseled with herself long and repeatedly of whether it could ever be of any account She knew it was intended for publication but her whole being shrank from such an encounter Had a stranger spirit come with a similar history of his or her family troubles & affairs it would not have seemed so hard to bear To show her own family imperfections to the general world How could she do that And more How would her kindred feel towards her for doing so

* * *

From the toil of writing in the dark (though it did not fatigue her nor hinder her from sleeping when it was done) under the nightly influence of her mother Susanna had not had three weeks intermission when her father came came as seen in "Part Second of Susanna the Shakeress"

* * *

Shortly after the requirement of her father was finished She went back to her own room to sleep

The first night there she awoke with the clock striking twelve and saw Abigail Clark bent over her face smiling and rosy cheeked and modest as she universely was through life

Abigail now reminded Susanna of a little sheet of old

⁖ See page eighty five

papers mostly written though some pages of particular incidents and hymns and poems were printed as there had been a printing press in the Village from its early start. Abigail had given said chest and contents to Susanna in her last sickness in her eighty sixth year and saying to Susanna then

"I have taken the care of the rags for over thirty years and during which time many of the aged people have died and among them a large class of the subjects of the Kentucky revival made ready in that great spiritual outpouring to sacrifice all that belonged to the world both outwardly and within themselves in consecration to the new and heavenly order of things revealed to them firstly in the wonderful visions amongst themselves in the "New Light" work. And secondly by the same being confirmed beyond a doubt in the testimonies and teachings of the messengers who were sent from the East to gather us and help us in the glorious new life of which there had been so many prophecies in our Revival meetings

Abigail was in her teens when she joined the society at Union Village with her parents and family

"As these aged people the founders of this Society one by one passed the portals of death" Abigail continued their choicest papers were thrown into the rags for the paper mills in redding out the drawers and other repositories of the deceased and casting aside whatever was counted of no further use to the searchers. I learned to read over the folded and wrapped and enveloped productions coming into the rags on these occasions while sorting and bagging for the paper mills and laid aside for safe keeping such documents as I thought should be preserved

I have been trying to decide in my mind to whom I could leave them when I am gone who would not throw them again into the same careless deposit And I have settled on you Many precious things are there. things that will do you good I hope And I would be glad how many others they might benefit I desire you to look them all over and copy off what you may deem appropriate and arrange them according to your own best judgment

Now that I am near the close of my existence in mortal life those papers are all that incline me longer to this earth Did I know that they would be revived again in that power and blessing in which they originated my spirit could easily go to its higher brighter and eternal home But I have a hope in this return of the "milk and wine" of our early trust and dependence on that source of fruition Divine counsel that doeth all things good well" For golden views of late recalling memories of our early faith and inspirations here in glorious splendors come moving above in Wisdom's glow to my eyes and thoughts that tire not in following after them These vivifying presentations come as the new day's sun rising clearer and stronger moves to our uplifted sight and shining in glorious bounty over our our beautiful dominion By our Mother Ann Lee prophesied of as where the next opening of her gospel would be as she saw in heavenly vision

Some of the papers of which I speak were brought to this country by the Elders from the East or belonging to them and given to the aged people here who prized them above anything else that they possessed and then were thrown into the rags at their death And them to be disposed of again in the same manner at my death by those who know nothing of the spirit of the times in which they were written All those precious letters inspiring hymns and poems together with various documents of instruction wasted of the Elders from New Lebanon Besides hymns poems and good pieces by our own smart people Discourses in meetings written down afterwards by memory Transactions of business descriptive accounts of well remembered events of mobs and persecutions and other special incidents and experiences here in the beginning which never have in the least lost their their impressions on me for we had everything to conquer of the opposing elements and work for by the hardest The tide of the large world being against us save a small dividend Again I repeat

"To think as I have ruminated and pondered on hundreds of times in the past of the casting away of those choice mementoes from the Eastern Elders treasured above price by their gospel children in the West And these becoming lost forever to their destined good as it seems to me in the annals of this society to the generations that come after who surely would be interested in them Firstly as determining the compass of the characteristic intellectual qualifications and earnest Godly lives of their predecessors in this Divinely instituted home and of whom they might well be proud Secondly as such being vigorous and encouraging examples to look too in seasons of poverty of soul the desert places of our spiritual travel Or in the trying tests of sacrifices which we are all unavoidably subjected to at times in this earthly life

Coming generations will like to read the productions of the forerunners and burden bearers of this community in its infancy and along up through its sustaining growth The miscellany accumulating year after year of their senior brethren and sisters By Angels ~~[illegible]~~ guided on before to their immortal reward triumphant in the liberty and light of their faith and hope that waneth not

In these compositions of my former companions I see their physiognomies as plainly in the lines of the penmanship of their own hands as people now-a-days recognize the likeness of their friends in the sun pictures of this past period And often am carried back to the bygone recollections of my youthful days and there walking in delightful imaginations amongst familiar scenes meet the pleasant faces as of yore ministers of energy and love And recounting the deeds of bravery and fidelity to country in its great struggle for independence in which many were ~~engaged~~ participated contemplation leads to the reviewing comparison ~~contrast~~ of how nearly allied is the natural to the spiritual conception "First that which is natural and afterwards that which is spiritual" sure enough The bravest and truest soldiers in the Revolutionary

+ In the R. war

war were in like degree the bravest and truest soldiers of the cross of Christ and Mother in this dispensation of spiritual warefare ushering in the kingdom of peace and good will to men"

Father David Darrow who stood at the head of the founders of this society was a military officer in the Revolutionary war He was orderly in his government from the highest duty to the least minutia in the affairs of life No individual member of the society nor any thing pertaining thereto escaped his attentive looking after A larger fatherly soul than his surely never was born in man He was at all times approachable and seemingly boundless in his tenderness and love for his gospel children whom he had been instrumental in bringing into the fold of protection in this place And the affection and appreciating esteem in which he held every one of his eastern companions from New Lebanon who came to this country to help him gather the people and start this society was very marked Father David was fair complected, had very penetrating large blue eyes but such as won immediate confidence looking in them, golden or auburn hair six feet in height commanding in person erect. and majestic in attitude

He preached mother Ruth Farrington's funeral sermon in the meeting house where the service was held Narrating the achievements of her useful examplary and successful life from its early morning to its meridian close in which she had been prospered at every step apparently Won by the constant energy of her body and her mind

to the calls of duty both temporal and spiritual
Dwelling especially on her arduous labors in this
country to have the gospel of Christs Second Appear
ing established aright in this western land

But coming on the ground in his discourse of moth
ers loss to him as a leader and counseler in the
ministerial order with him together with her
loss to the whole society and to all its branch soci
eties in the West The anguish of his feelings becam
so great that the tears dropped on the pane of mother
coffin by which he stood over her surpassingly beau
tiful face

Richard McNemar composed a hymn to be sung
and a poem to be read at mother Ruths Farring
tons funeral In one of them were these lines
about mother

+++ "The heavens and earth did certainly unite
To form and ornament this star of light
Yet all her nat'ral beauty has to fade
And in the tomb her body must be laid

"Heart rending thought Is Mother really gone
And is her work on earth forever done {gloom
All nature sure might wear a mournful ^
While Mother's corpse moves to the silent tomb" ++

"But with her spirit we can never part
She has a place in every honest heart
And that eternal treasure she did gain
With all her faithful children will remain" +++

Even strangers remarked at meeting mother

Ruth Farrington said she was the most beautiful woman in her entire aspect that they had ever beheld

But to us her gospel children she was more than a beautiful being she was our dearest mother and surpassing in her motherly tenderness and concern for our well fare as she was in her natural beauty of person.

She was five feet seven inches in height and plump

She came to this country to stand as the first female leader in the ministerial order with father David Darrow May thirty first 1806 in company with six brethren and sisters besides herself naming elder Peter Peas Samuel Turner Constant Mosely John Wright Lucy Smith Martha Sanford Molly Goodrich Prudence Farrington (Mother Ruths younger sister) Ruth Darrow father Davids daughter) All these we called elder and eldress

If there ever were a human skin as soft as silk and as white as snow it was mother ruths Her head was large and her features in harmony with her head and body Her hair was called black Her eyes the blue of the deepest blue sky seemingly at times but too variable for any one description in intellectual heavenly intelligence as I would say not having the words to fit a true comparison The roses on her cheeks that never left her face were as changeable paling and enlivening in hue according to her emotions

When the first dwelling house was to be built in village for a large family residence The brethren thinking mother Ruths judgment superior in every way asked her to lay out the new house She finanly yielded to their persuation in the matter and laid it out And it has always been considered the most conviently constructed residence in the village

Mother was a great worker and gave no countenance to idleness in any one She used to often refer to Mother Anne Lees incessant industry and reminding us of her motto "Hands to work and hearts to God."

Mother Ruth was an excellent spinner of flax on the little wheel and a good weaver and she spun and wove long webs of fine toweling in this country what time she had to spare from her ministerial duties She was set to weaving before she had her growth at New Lebanon because she was one of the stoutest girls she said

Father David Darrow was a farmer in his own natural family and owned the place on which the society at New Lebanon is built

Though father was gentle and generous to those deserving of his approval yet neither did he make any compromise with idleness and ever counseled that all should keep themselves dilligently employed for the institution to make it prosperous and to gain and keep their own union with their brethren and sisters and aside of which no one could be prospered nor keep their justification but would be tempted by the adversary of souls to to evil works

Father was very select in regard to who were admitted into the society as members And in his last discourse to the elders of the society collected together by his ~~desire~~ request to set forth his feelings on this subject and on which occasion warning in particular against two classes of people which should not be taken in for they would never do any good but harm

Father David came to this country July twenty ninth 1805 accompanied by elders Solomon King and Daniel Mosely Father deceased June twenty seventh 1825. His last instructions to the elders was kept pretty well.

Until 1827 when the two classes of people that father objected to came in shoals we might nearly say ~~so to speak~~ and were admitted A majority of the elders and people being ~~admitted~~ delighted with the prospect of such large admissions to our ranks justifying themselves in disobeying fathers instructions By quoting the parable of the Saviour

"The kingdom of heaven is like unto a net that was cast into the sea and gathered of every kind

"Which when it was full they drew to shore and sat down and gathered the good into vessels but cast the bad away"

The sorting in our case was not an easy matter That some some good fish were amongst the comers of those days I admit But the majority were so abasing to our pure and spiritual standard of endeavor Breeding such disturbance contention rebellion and contempt that the talented and promising young people raised here in peace order innocence and honorable high purposes of life flooded out. As these inferior annoying broods drifted in consuming our substance like parasites until their race was run amongst us and then drifted out again into their own natural economy sphere Leaving us their bed and board the poorer off for having harbored them + During the period of which I now speak I was frequently reminded of a prophecy dated 1008 translated from the German by Goff that Richard M.Nemar came across somewhere In which was stated that ++after the 17th Century +++ "general peace be established until 1827 Then will confusion and rebellion begin in all quarters +++ Then will the white swan and a powerful eagle from a dark valley in the west unite +++ and rule many years till the Almighty God with his unchangeable wisdom will make an end thereof" +++

These drifters in and out invading both our temporal and our spiritual interests whom father David foresaw and advised against accepting amongst us marks ~~was~~ the beginning of our decline in numbers

It was in 1827 that the first break for the outside world was made and which continued along afterwards until were lost to us the greater part of our fair flowers of young manhood and womanhood so perfectly reared in the image of the

55

Angels of the heavenly spheres we thought

Prior to the year 1827 Two men from the far north grown named Daniel and Jason calling themselves prophets came to this village on a visit when this society was at its largest counting over six hundred souls members These prophets were exceedingly delighted with the appearance of the village where everything wore the garb of prosperity to their eyes the outgrowth of an industrious noble people they thought and with whom they were having a welcome and good time. Until one day when they were going out of their room in the upper story of the house Daniel fell in the hall near his door in vision, in which he moaned then cried aloud in agonizing lamentation "They are going They are going They are going It would seem that they would all go And some leaders and elders of this society are going I see" he uttered.

This vision of Daniels wrought so painfully on his feelings that he would not neither eat nor drink nor rise from the floor on which he had fallen until the eve of the third day. When he sprang to his feet and exclaiming with great joy "They are coming They are coming They are coming from the east from the west from the north from the south It would seem that the whole world would come"

We have seen one part of this prophecy fulfilled And I believe that Union Village will live to see the other part fulfilled in an encouraging degree in Gods own time

I have been wandering from the subject of which I feel particular in talking to you about and now returning say

To have those things cast away forever of which I am speaking over and over to you And their ministration go into oblivion would be an irreparable loss and leave a vacuum never to be filled in the history of this society The recorders of the church have left out many interesting occurrences in their records of brief notices The jottings of the various experience and moods of one and another in their gospel travel will be needed by their successors as references and safe guides in like circumstances Fighting through the vicissitudes of youth tempted with the things of the natural course of the outside world in which are wanting in the elements that go to make life worth living The effusions of inspiration in the hymns will always impart of the same to the reader Poems describing our mobs and persecutions will give stamina and courage to our successors who must keep up this gospel work Every phase of experience that we have passed through may be met with in character by those coming after us that you will find amongst my treasure of papers which I trust to you with prayer and hope for their eternal perpetuation

Abigail talked on thus till her aged face bloomed like a girls face with the fever that her conversation exerted

Susanna promised Abigail that she would be as true to her wishes as she could be Abigail thanked her and appeared satisfied Then after a little doze, she smilingly said "I hear a voice singing"

"Take the reward of your faithful labors
'Tis Mother's love to you it freely flows
For Zion shall bloom for Zion shall bloom
For Zion shall bloom like a full blown rose"

Abigail now apparently fell asleep again and awoke no more to speak

The little song above was given in the first vision at Union Village during the spiritual work that commenced in all the Shaker societies in the years 1837 and 8 The medium a young sister in the "Gathering Order" the foremost herald-er of the new and wonderful visitation She sung the little song over and over until learned by the brethren and sisters Then she said "A glorious spirit of indescribable beauty says

"Mother Ann Lee sent me with a message of her love and mindful promise of future reward to the aged brethren and sisters of this village who prostrate sacrificed their all that belonged to the outer world when in the ~~future~~ flattering best of their [illegible] in the flower of their lives and Bore in love the burden and heat of the day in planting and toiling for a prosperous growth of her gospel on this consecrated soil The little song that I have been singing is her promise to these her dear children"

"The spirit that has been singing and speaking" the medium continued says that in this world she was known as Mother Ruth Farrington by her dear beloved children in this place And now she is waving her hands in token of dispensing her love and blessing to all the brethren and sisters present

The little song sounded most heavenly beautiful and thrilling when sung by the inspired one in church meeting to the aged the founders of the Society who shed plentiful tears of gratitude and joy for Mother Ann Lee's notice to them

When the same medium was in vision at another time Mother Ruth Farrington communicated through her to the assembly these as nearly as our memory can now recall

"It is a part of my mission to look after those usually designated "Turnbacks" from this society It may be known when the "Ingathering" prophesied of is approaching by these coming amongst the first They will return many in number to the home they departed seeking to enter again the way of the truth that their "first love" and undying faith asserts to their convictions is only to be attained to the satisfaction of the soul in this latter day institution where the Divine Will is revealed and known beyond a doubt

Some of this class still with the unction of their faith within themselves pursue in meditative communion of this higher life their duties amidst the anxious throng on the stretch for the mammon of the world at any hazzard justified by virtue sullied not Honest in their dealings with men and women Examples of peace temperance industry patience charity Respected trusted and sought by the society in which they move And to the observer evincing that they are not of the world even as their Lord and Saviour was not of the world walking Judea made sacred by his feet

Those I select of whom I have just given specimen character or others of as noble endowments of innate abilities who have yielded in a measure to points of weakness pertaining to "Adams Fall" promotive of varied deviations that lead astray but have repented of their participations therein And have made restitution where it was requisite And then honestly resolving with firmness of purpose to reform themselves and to support and build up this sacred cause of entire consecration of both body and spirit

These and all others of like honesty earnestness and endeavor I call my children and guide them back If in the natural body I bring them here to be reinstated in union and to their former place of usefulness If in the spirit I guide them to the same order in the spirit world all such are deserving of a second privilege

But the greater number of individuals who have drifted to this home from time to time have proved inadequate for the discipline and order of this highest spiritual relation on the earth But God is just and such will be cared for in a sphere adapted to their nearer development and easier happiness

A few have dropped off like withered branches from the living tree by dishonesty and evil doing and must remain in darkness until God sends his agents of progression to them

There have been faithful and contented members now called "turnbacks" who went not from this fold of protection of their own choice But on account of duties incumbent upon them in one way and another Some had outside obligations to their children leaving the society under age and having to be taken care of And circumstances being such that the parent could never return in the natural life time but who conscientiously lived the faith till the spirit departure for the eternal clime where he or she is made one again with gospel companions passed before after an exceptable preparation out of all the dross of our common unredeemed natures for this pure and glorious relation

Finally in conclusion will say that all the noble hearted and true inhabiting the mortal body who would again fervently and cheerfully toil in this garden of the Lord in the service of the cause they once espoused and return seeking the same again with earnestness of purpose to be faithful in every duty both temporal and spiritual are worthy to be admitted to the ranks in which they once stood and the enjoyments formerly possessed by well doing

The young that were gifted promising and

and loved while here and left this society from time to time for the show of the world and what was in them for its adventures but afterwards finding that its appearances were not what they seemed to be nor its pleasures affording the happiness expected having kept themselves honorable and free from outside obligations and return to the fold in their best prime or younger and in their full vigor of body and tenderness of conscience determined on future usefulness and faithfulness should be given a second privilege But in all cases of which I have spoken the ministry and elders are to be the judges of who shall again be admitted into this society

This last statement in substance of Mother Ruth Farrington was quite astounding to the aged brethren and sisters who had previously entertained the idea that those who left their spiritual home in this world not only could not have another privilege here in time but even if they ever had another opportunity in the spirit world to obey their faith in union with the saints their former companions that they would ever have to stand in the back ranks

At this date of Mother Ruth's spirit appearing No turnback had ever been allowed another privilege though they appealed for the same in tears

At the time ~~of~~ when Abigail's spirit returned Susanna had not interfered with the old documents Yet she had not been unmindful of her promise But the thoughts of such a task felt exceedingly heavy to her For she had written "Susanna the Shakeress" all in the night and it seemed that she could not bear to think again of her late nightly vigils at writing as previously described concerning her vision of 1871.

And began to look about for an easier way There was talk at time of sending a girl to Cincinnati that had been brought from there on trial So Susanna offered to take charge of this bad girl if they could have a little room to themselves It was ~~granted~~ permitted Susanna could get her early to bed and asleep as she was a mere child And so beginning earlier her coppyings from Abigail's collection

And now she says and to her shame she knows that almost every scrap of paper large or small from the little chest either written or printed was new to her And she supposed that every one was the only specimen in existence of the kind She hardly knew how or when to quit copying that nothing valuable might be lost and so come short of her duty conscientiously through her promise The "Kentucky Revival" Written by Richard McNemar 1807. that she found in the selection was printed in the long esse And she thinks that every letter in the book was half gone by dilapidation And in order to read it at all by lamp light she had to draw out all that she extracted therefrom through a magnefying glass And many other print ed articles she had to decipher in the same manner And ~~many~~ own written articles also in this way intensely hard on her eyes and head And since all were finished she has occasionally come across some of the same productions in better preservation that she knew not of before And some of the written ballads so difficult to read she has since found in good print

Susanna tried to task herself to four hours a night at these copyings together with her own notes ~~accompanied by~~ her own notes which at intervals are given But often ere this limit it seemed that a loud whizzing sound shot through her head and then she would stop taking this as a warning that she had gone far enough in safety to her brain and to her her health At other times exhaustion prevented further force of thought and she had to quit

Often when commencing these evening tasks she would have to stop and wait awhile on blinding tears that dimmed her sight partly because of the work and partly because she was afraid that she might be doing wrong after all !

But on every such occasion she soon would see little quick lights as sprinkled gems sparkling on her paper and under her pen and hand and which she felt were shown as evidence that she was attended by good Angels and doing the Will of her heavenly Mother

And then taking confidence would again proceed in what she believed for the time being was required of her from on high

Inclosed will be found a picture of Susanna taken in Lebanon on the same day of her vision of A & D January 1871 Also her father's picture His was taken by a lady (in Carbon Clay county Indiana May 1875) who said that it was her first attempt in that line It does not do him justice though it looks like him He was at the time ~~now~~ still so weak after his sickness previously spoken of (February 1875) that he could hardly bear the drive to Carbon nor sit upright when he got there for his picture There a traveling artist taking tin pictures only had put up a temporary shed of boards And announced that he would stop at Carbon for ~~two or three~~ some weeks and take pictures for the people in that region But he was absent the day that she had her father there for his picture So she persuaded his wife to take the picture as it would be her only chance of ever getting it

There being as yet no arrangement made in Carbon in the picture business excepting that just refered to Her father had never had his picture taken and she was to return in a few days to her home in Ohio

Because of Susanna's relatives on whom she would wish to refrain from bringing mortification by reason of what she has written She requires in the most decided manner never to

65

have her full name mentioned in connection with her writings

P. S. This page finishes all of Susanna's writings the work of nearly two years 1878 and 1879. And none of which but the writer has ever seen or heard ~~known~~ any thing about excepting two highly educated brethren in our family, to whom she ~~the~~ ~~samma~~ confided the reading of "Susanna the Shakeress" for their intellectual estimation

These gave each his decision in a note which are here ~~included~~ as follows! ~~And~~ And now she ~~lays all~~ again away in a ~~tin~~ box ~~made~~ bought for the purpose to await the time when it shall be made known to her what to do with them her productions

Very Respectfully
The writer

SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 337 a

Autobiography of Susanna Cole Liddell,
Union Village, Ohio

Pages 75-83

Part Second
Of "Susanna the Shakeress

Susanna had written the preceding verses
When, spying her father – her soul immerses
In wond'ring conjectures of foreboding grief
For he walk'd with staff and as wanting relief
His tall thin figure brooded wearisome thought
And steering the forest his hand often caught
To th' vibrating vine or the bush for its hold
Upward and downward hill sides' slippery mold
And he breathed thanks from his spirit to these
For aiding his progress by needed degrees
Though threading the woodland in so feeble grope
Yet his mind emitted clear sparklings of hope
He kept in the shade seem'd to shun the sun's glare
But oft rais'd his look where the clouds floated fair
When passing the meadow where his home once shone
He stopp'd to review it His hand work was gone
Now turning the cross roads at Union Village
His footsteps seemed easier to manage
As they again measur'd that pike as of yore
And quicken'd in speed as they near'd more and more
He view'd th' south farm, by where in boyhood he roam'd
Where there wicked men and their horses' mouths foam'd
And in hoards paraded with their swords unsheath'd
Mobbing the Shakers for the faith they believ'd
This street up and down from the morn to its eve
In threatenings rash but did seldom achieve
The demon designings for which they did thirst
Their schemes were frustrated from th' last to the first

These mem'ries 'pear'd teeming his thoughts and his walk
And of which Susanna had oft heard him talk
On long Sabbath days in his retiring room
When tedious and tiresome to her had become
He took great pleasure in rehearsing the deeds
Of the rabble in which the Shaker succeeds
How their plans mischievous were comprehended
And hence defeating the evil intended
Now she thought he hastened as fast as he could
From the window beholding him where she stood
And when she met him giving hand and a chair
He said "Susanna I must lie down somewhere"
With fluttering heart and with strange fear oppress'd
She said while speeding thoughts sought him place of rest
"I saw you father walking the Otter shore
And the glittering sun on its surface pour
Through the quivering boughs of the lofty trees
Last Sunday and your soft locks lift in the breeze
And that you were coming here I then believ'd
It in your mein and in your mind I perceiv'd"
"Why did you not come on the hastening cars"
"The way I might have miss'd and do not like their jars"
Thus they conversed while finding suited room
He adding "It is long distance to your home
And my Preserver I thank that you I've found
And that you are settled on this holy ground
Where snares of the forest or snares of the world
On your tender spirit need not to be hurl'd"
And when in lone room she'd left him and lone bed
And to her apartment her course back had led
She wondered why he could seem so tired
And all so earth like and so unenspired

And in her mind saw him as cover'd and asleep
For her restless look would its vigilance keep
Yet pray'd when he woke he would go other way
For could she bear his burdens she answerd "nay""
Some days had pass'd when she saw him as before
Walking the Otter bank and bright sandy shore
Thence winding to the highest point in his field
Whence he view'd around but it was not reveal'd
What was his object or his thought or intent
Both joy and sadness in his countenance blent
Through his hand he cited to Carbon on the west
Then east to Calcutta where the cars were at rest
With still reaching eye he look'd south to Brazil
Turn'd north and gazed on the Otter tranquil
And then with quick start as recall'd by a thoug
Through his grazing pasture the Otter branch sought
Explored its length seemed marking its springs
When over memory enliven'd impulse flings
That his face illumin'd in ideal light
As triumphant victory gained by right
Then to the house went where he'd lived and died
And the cars on the rumbling trestle descri'd
Departing Calcutta o'er this woodwork strong
That to the wonderful in labor belong
He stood in the door way his hand on his brow
To shield from the beam of the sun through the boug
Of opening branch of the still dewy beach
Which might at noonday its cool shade o'er him reach
The coal flats appear'd half a mile holding track
Curling steam told of others but little back
All rac'd on their errand of fuel demand
Propell'd by the burnished engines that fann'd

Dense banks of dark smoke on the town from them free'd
To the flush'd washer maid unthanked for meed
They onward through forest luxurient breath'd
Their expending breath the high foliage wreath'd
  Then he cross'd the street to an old neighbor's yard
Where for his small children he had shown regard
Was pleas'd with their physical vigorous play
And said to himself "Here I've no bills to pay"
Then he sat spectator amusement it gave
To hear the shrill girls and the boys echo brave
See the girls witty schemes to get their own will
Which the boys declared they would not fulfil
  Then he went to the "Witness" nearest his land
And look'd on his vener'ble bearing so grand
His mind through his countenance seemed to say
In reverent address and eye lighted ray
"A nobleman's form exquisit in feature
No Brittish Lord could out vie him in picture
To do me full justice will 'rouse him I vow
And would to my God I could bring it 'round now"
  Still in the same look in which he admir'd
"My "Will" was not handled as I desir'd"
Now said to the Witness with firmness of eye
And on his cane quaking and drawing deep sigh
x"My childrens names first say it has dealt with wrong
Puts names together where they do not belong
My first born calls Susan Susanna's her name
The Susanna that from our ancestors' came
  "My two living daughters it middle names Jane
And then says I sign'd it with mind sound and sane
No coertion was under it does declare
And of sound mind and mem'ry is stated there

From my hands is well known there went no poor work
And yet that mean Will people would on me shirk
When my voice can't be heard in my own defence
Must have palm'd on me that medley of nonsense
"But he feels my spirit in some small degree
And it makes him restless I plainly can see
His mind as his body to greatness allied
The fraud saw not fully to my name applied
When he testified to that alter'd Will
Which lies in its falseness and treachery still
But which none the less wrongs my children and me
Though I'm thought a far off in eternity"
Then he left this Witness of his selection
The one so reverently 'neath his inspection
And followed the road that leads to Brazil.
And Susanna her father watched until
A rising obstruction which volumn'd between
Obscur'd by its haze as a veil falling screen
And th sight of her father was lost in the crowd
As a star pass'd over by traveling cloud
Dissolved then Susanna's journeyed sight
But vanish'd at her home had a week not quite
When strayed her thoughts while her needle she plied
And thus she reflected and soliloquiz'd
"My mother's voice Why is it I cannot hear
While my father's voice hear so plainly and clear
What intuition his spirit life unseals
To me And not the same forces hers reveals
"My mother comes breezy floating and wreathing ⁘
My father comes with cane tired and breathing

⁘ Meaning as she sometimes appeared in glimses during the year spoken of on page seventy four and elsewhere

And so she was wond'ring and reas'ning in mind
But nothing ascertain'd or definite divin'd
When distant aerial voice drew her eye
To her father mingl'd in forest and sky
Fatigued, sad, troubl'd, his visage impli'd
From looks of his face too she knew he had cry'd
Advancing he crossed and enter'd the corn
Where the plough its furrow had turn'd in the morn
His look and step aiming direct to her room
Where at the first time he had so tired come
Having taken his hand and given him seat
What she had been thinking began to repeat
Then kindled his spirit relief it awoke
And in plaintive sorrowful language he spoke
"When the apple is ripe is when it will drop
And then it is fit for the gathering crop
Other life to sustain and for higher use
Unless by neglect it decay in abuse
Then its life rejected will the low worm feed
Blight the bright grass and multiply the rank weed
So my earthly life was ripe in year in day
To the winds severing touch an easy prey
"The life of that body is ungather'd yet"
And his quivering chin Susanna's eye met
"No spirit I've seen since death but your mother
When e'er she salutes me she calls me brother
She says that in this world and in the other
I am her nearest and her dearest brother
(But Susanna in this world and in th, other
There is none I yearn for as for my mother)
"The children born of our blood and of our life
Are ours. But banes hol'd is the husband and wife

For from this relation came our greatest pain
And without the corresponding fruits of gain
To some natures is not the Mosaic twain
Suited And of this procession is long train
For husband and father I ne'er was the man
And for this perversion must atone as I can
"Your mother was strong in love pure and tender
And service for me was her joy to render
O'er the babes of our house was bright as a bird
The sweetest attentions on them she conferr'd
She'd physical health and the bloom of the rose
Happy in duty from day dawn to its close
More imperial mein or loftier glide
Adorn'd not a princess in her realms of pride
"Than this fair woman the house that her husband rear'd
Which at home his presence and the children cheer'd
Along I had seen her grow up from a girl
And noticed her hair inclined to curl
That girls' heads should curl I had a boy's notion
Their ringlets thought were delightful in motion
But she mov'd no instinct to follow her way
Nor any temptation one word to her say
My sister Susanna for whom you were nam'd
Carry'd me when a baby and me she claim'd
Carry'd me all the way when we came from [*] Jersey
William Beadle our kinsman's propos'd journey
Presbyterian elder was he at the time
Old England it was said was his kindred's clime
My mother when bury'd Susanna came next
To visit the Shakers this furnished pretext

[*] First cousin to Mary Gray Isaac's mother

The brethren they greeted and welcom'd me in
And often the preachers they tried to me win
And the glory reflected through their learned words
Gleam'd on my vision as bright glittering swords
In conquerers' hands the most valiant and true
In the warefare of God that the world ever knew
In sight fulfilling prophesies could behold
And stronger than thunders had power that rolled
"Now here I would tell you that I ran away
From my home at fifteen one dull lonesome day
To live with the Shakers and move in a crowd
And till cleared lands the sunshine could shroud
See the glimmers of morning above the night clouds
And the fields of bright sky they show up above
And to work on a farm with fifty young men
And boys of my age had wish'd again and again
"But Richard McNemar soon clasped my hand
That glowed at my face 'neath his eye command
And with soul in my soul and eye in my eye
'Will you my boy with our best judgment comply
With your parents remain till you are of age
Then you'll know whether this warefare you can wage
If then ready you're welcome my son' he said
And back to my small woods home I slow steps made
"But calls for the brethren I broke off and on
Still bent that when of age there I would belong
Now Benjamin S Youngs one of the first three
Who came to the West to plant a gospel free
He wrote a large book the new faith expounding
Because of false stories that were abounding
Which brought persecution and cruel abuse
And depredations for which were no excuse.

"And Issachar Bates who accompanied him here
And who for himself took the heaviest share
Of all that was hard for the mortal to bear
In whatever toil or whatever fare
Fifer in war* times distinguished his name
When that expir'd Baptist Preacher became
While Benjamin Seth Youngs was writing his book
Issachar Bates his pen for rhyming he took
And poems he commenced to write long wrought
That out of antiquity history brought
And events composed when held to the light
Where wrong had usurped instead of the right
"The Rights of conscience" prefer'd for his first lay
And portrayed it out in forcible way
Susanna you get it and read it for me
For the most of its lines I cannot now see"

"Rights of Conscience

~~1 Rights of conscience in these days~~
~~Now demand our solemn praise~~
~~Here we see what God has done~~
~~By his servant Washington~~
~~Who with Wisdom was endow'd~~
~~By an angel through the cloud~~
~~And led forth in Wisdom's plan~~
~~To secure the rights of man~~

---

* Revolutionary War

SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 337

Autobiography of Susanna Cole Liddell,
Union Village, Ohio

pages 139-187

So near to my heart is none as my mother"

* * *

"A rainbow at night is the sailors delight"
She said viewing the radiant circlet bright
The starling she watch'd till he seemed flow
Into a wavelet of the suns waning glow
"Where arch'd o'er the woods the now fading {rainbow
In the Miami's mist commencing to show
That thin blueish mist slowly towering high
Assailed by the wind that brisk hurries by.

* * *

"Susanna one morning while sweeping her room
Confus'd; came her thoughts as in thread tangled {loom
Now repeating words coming silent through space
Once spoken before but forgotten the place
"Now quickens her pulse the mem'ries to hear
For whispering voices feels are coming near
Inclined her ear but her senses were clogg'd
On eye sight of vision too there was a fog
"A shower had ceas'd wavering clouds hung {low
A wind gale arose tossing buds to and fro
Of the tinted clover sweet scented with bloom
That honey bees flutter'd 'mid the petals for {room
"The fragrance of clay blew warmed from the west
From chiseled⁘ soil of the garden's deep breast
For planting new crop by the gardener turn'd
A previous crop had the upper mold earn'd
"Through the swaying shade trees the wind forces {wound
Their impulsive strains that were the upper wood bound
Through stems of the roses in eddying force
Them bending aslant in their hurrying course
⁘ plow or cultivator

"O'er sward even spread in the summer time green
The yard of the shops and the flowers there seen
Though awry their toilet by the ruffling blast
Yet lovelier through rain bath their beauty cast
"For heavy with drops of the shower of morn
Were these tender emblems of beauty newborn
Awaiting the generous [illegible] gilding of the sun
Their varied hues to perfect one by one
"On this eastern view ample orchards arise
The Cherry orchard on the vision first lies
The large cherry orchard of Spanish and red
With leaves turning yellow its harvest is fled
"Next the young apple orchard beginning to bear
With divers red apples and the maiden blush fair
Its branches symmetrical webs of the worm
Have not yet entered its fruit to deform
"Adjoining this orchard the winter corn grows
That up to the forest extendeth its rows
And lifteth in blade as though cumbrous to wing
But incorrect: spials may telescope bring
"On the naked eye through the distance does ball
That bounding forest like a close wreathed wall
That yet thrifty forest whose planting has been
Miraculously sav'd from the wood cutters din
"This pure after-shower Susanna's eyes drew
And scenery familiar invited as new
Passing and repassing at her early chores
Instinctive she stops and the landscape explores
"Or the skies in far reach that were turning blue
Or floating reflections as they shorter grew
Or where tiny rills of the dawn had escap'd
In devious channels as larger tides shap'd

"Every step at the door was listings she thought
Then coming to her or to her being brought
Though finding in this her impression untrue
Yet glance out the window at each pass she threw
"Now came on her mind did as echoing tongue
What through the deep silence is frequently rung
Of various mem'ries of dear absent friends
Who their joyous presence in foregreeting sends
"The forwarding heralds of their nearing steps
By that premonition which thought intercepts
~~Like glows of the sun as among woods spattering light~~
In flickering glances subdu'd them of height
"Now looked on the green where the warm sheep lay
Beneath the cool shadows all heavy and gray
Of th, coffee nut tree and an ash here and there
Where once stood a forest towering in air
"Then th, timothy field and Hungarian grass
In wind wave and sunshine appearing as glass
And slowly expanding in measuring sight
Till up to the Lebanon road gravel'd white
"This more southern view she leaves with a sigh
For there is a something that still does reply
'There's message in word or in letter for her'
And the confidence inward impulses stir
"Materializ'd call'd or in form to show
Immaterial things in the earth below
In that strange opening that breaks on the mind
By process unknown nor by language defind
"Now vividly issued scenes of the past
As quicksilver'd mirrors their objects cast
And her father's face emotional she knew
In the high yellow stage appearing in view

"It stops in the road" for a house in Huntsville
While the violets of dew are drinking their fill
Her father alights swift the yard his feet clear
And reaches an arm forth that back a child bore
"The stage then on hastens through foliage green
The hickory and walnut in columns long seen
Of unbroken forest tangled and deep
Where the birds and the rabbits could undisturb'd keep
"The hickory and walnut the child she outsingl'd
They made not the forest but only there mingl'd
Densely as a hedge in the distance extended
Seemed the forest as it rose and descended
"With rivulets interspers'd winding their way
And rippling and singing by night and by day
And marshes or swamps where the frogs have their sport
And send through the country their evening report
"The woods with its leaves and its hills and its dales
Prolific with wondrous adventurous tales
Grew thinner and smoother as the City begun
And shriveled stood in the hot scorching sun
"Now sweet little girls some younger some older
Came out with a ribon of blue on the shoulder
Lace collars and aprons and dresses of white
And whisper'd and talk'd of what made them look bright
"The great City dazzled in cornice and steeple
And thicker and thicker crowded the people
Till the colored driver the father's voice hail'd
And himself and the child alighted then veil'd
"Was like a cloudlet or some covering screen
The house and its entrance and nothing was seen
At length like a glimmer of light from the sky
Again on the vision came others scenes nigh

""This interposition she knew not how long
Had blindly detain'd her when buoyant and strong
Came young men from work with her father at eve
To listen to ghost stories hard to believe
""Or light feats to practice which all could not do
As turning the heels o'er the head the arms throwing
Or walking with hand and with foot like a wheel
And diverse amusements pursued with zeal
""Now came the glad Sabbaths in summer time clear
When walk'd she the streets with her father most dear
Of th, brick paved city its grandeurs to see
Which multiplied thought into immensity
""And th, sun on the waters she saw in the waves
And the willows' soiled roots that in them laves
Of the river Ohio fast rolling down
And drifting a flat boat away from the town
""The ponderous Black Hawk majestically stirr'd
The largest steamboat then the river transfer'd
Impatient it seem'd at the Sabbath's delay
And the fastenings which commanded its stay
""Now floated her thought and was dizzy her sight
And the city with its magnificent might
Went off as the whir of a birds over flight
Or the lightning's flashes that glittereth the nigth
""Turned east now her gaze there the sun shone fair
A translucent beauty did the prospect wear
The loftiest heads of the giant oak trees
Obediently bow'd to th, rallying breeze
""The regions of space in the concave of light
Were deck'd here and there with a delicate white
And crimson and golden through clouds from afar
Emitted expression serene as a star } ""to learn from Isaac her father

"The moistened forest glistening and fresh
Was clothed in the fullness of prime summer dress
Lur'd on seem'd her senses in this lovely wild
Where infinite nature and her household smil'd
"Till mingled in vapor and forest and cloud
Smooth as painted sceneries held to a crowd
Of expectant artist aspiring and proud
Happily hearing his work praised aloud
"Perceives she in this spontaneous view
A motion advancing as by the gale blew
Then elastic step and a mein tall and hale
And fast falling feet as the nuts in wind & hail
"The eye took her glance and deepened in glow
The quick bounding blood that in manhood does & blow
From vermillion currents ere languor of age
Has pointed to the dim and sere fading page
"Her father she knew 'twas whom she had just seen
On th, bank of the river the steamboats between
His years and apparel and the look that he cast
Was all the same father as in years gone past
"He enters her room as a beam through the pane
Of the Sun's radiant power strong and plain
And said in a whispering tone deep and slow
I have been gathered from this world below"
"And then he dissolved in space as a breath
And said as though meeting the portals of death
"Susanna at some other time I will come
And see you again in your peaceable home"
As meeting the portals of death we repeat
For that way it seemed he had to retreat
She fear'd that a groan she might hear in the air
And inwardly prayed that it would forbear

As memory of musick's enlivening strain
Came Susanna's father to her presence again
"I have been gathered" repeating he said
"By Richard Mc Nemar and my brother led
"My brother William a Shaker of yore
They came to me on terrestrial shore
In my infirmities of frailty and sin
And reached a hand that convicted within
"He whose hand met mine in the days of my youth
And whose voice declar'd what I've found to be truth
With me again reason'd as father and friend
Concerning my need as I did comprehend
"And gave me the joy of beholding his home
Which spoke to my thought of bright glittering dome
In guiding direction he started on first
William and I walked behind and convers'd
"But all unacquainted with the celestial sphere
I knew not whether what seemed to appear
Was of the earth earthly and belong'd to time
Or a reflection of the eternal clime
"And wondered whether the air that I breath'd
Was from those regions through faith believ'd
Or whether I drew it from the zephyrs of earth
Where my mortal body received its birth
"It seem'd the aerial elements were
More inspiring than ever had bless'd me here
The light transparently clearer and lighter
Than e'er I had witness'd and it was whiter
"Serenely and calmly instilling its might
Nor dazzl'd nor glitter'd but was lightest light
And flowed on the sight in spaces beyond
Where distance previous in shadows had donn'd

It was like infusions of sweetest flavor
Or Gilead's balm that healeth forever
Or beneficence like that knows no ending
Searching attending kind influence lending
Pervading assisting the life's vital strength
Refreshing and consoling until at length
Conditions effete do return to earth's mold
Whence cometh new growth more welcome than the old
And thus evolution God's law doth unfold
Like the seasons maturing sumeth controll'd
The old dissolving in new life will grow
Nourish'd by showers the sun and winds that blow
No death there is by wisdom is now explain'd
No death shall be has the Eternal ordain'd
But as the days orb rolling down western skies
Revolveth in darkness but again to rise
So is dissolutions exit but to spring
Its likeness to perpetuate and to bring
Relations that are more perfectly design'd
As do develop the qualities of mind
These seem'd to disappear like mist wreaths in the sun
My long enfeebl'd energies one by one
And become transported on my weak reason
Howth, properties of life from death are risen
And my cane I missed on this country's soil
Knew not of its absence till feeling no toil
In strength as I strengthen'd increased our speed
From bodily infirmities was all freed
Through history at length my revery ran
To the evanescent witnesses of man
For dreamy and evasive yet were my powers of mind
And to the evanescent readily inclin'd

As when the morning shadows by the day beams drawn
Fell from the lofty cedars of Lebanon
And when the evening shadows dark and strong
Canopied the hosts of Israel along
And traveling on still in times endless train
Of his life producing and sustaining chain
Of the vast universe's exhaustless main
By the laws of creation that God did ordain
As following the dawn comes Aurora's swift chase
Then the Sun in the skies till the Moon takes her place
The rising in day of the luminous Sun
In the west to be buried when his work is done
Again to be quickened into new birth
Again to revolve into darkness of earth
And so of the nights twinkling orbs that do run
Aerial space when the day light is done
With the Moon comes advancing a household fair
Her sons and her daughters that dwell in the air
And sail the concave still as thoughts glide the soul
When nought but the breath and the mind have control
Her quire of singers the stars of the morn
That joyously sung when creation was born
Their vigilance keeping untiring and bright
And their radiance glowing as on that night
Repeated There is nothing new under the Sun
Was by the wisest of the Kings Solomon
And at this period it is just as true
As then That under the Sun nothing is new
So ran my thoughts through wild and rambling may be —
But as glimses seemed of what is to see
Fleetly as meridian checkers the shade
Darting his reflections through spaces broad laid

For as yet the immortal part it was not
Through Jordan or the judgment ordeal brought
The soul that sinneth is the part that shall die
The removal of sin this does signify

We now had come up to a clear river bank
Containing such water as I never drank
Though I tasted it not nor was I athirst
By some secret consciousness this on me burst
But vibrating vines there and low branches dipp'd
Beneath its full bosom and lovingly sipp'd
Their thirst to replenish and beauty renew
In the dress of their foliage and form and hue
Its waves glided smoothly and sung sweetly on
As the birds on our roof singing up the day dawn
The clouds overhead deftly mirror'd their glance
Lightly in the river's unheeding advance
Afar on before us and crowned in white
A city appeared that gaining in sight
Shown upward as to an imperial height
Suffused in livery of serenest light
There seemed no limit or bound to its room
The light was not bright but the snow reflect bloom
Its rolls and its folds of fine workmanship high
Disclosed new symmetry continually
Earth's shade trees and orchards in snowy sheet bend
A weak comparison to the prospect would lend
When the frosts purest flakes in eddying play
Have fitted up nature in vestal array
The lovely expansion around beholding
Promises came of the prophets unfolding
And nearing its borders it so far surpass'd
Any fit definition by which to contrast

That for the learned I will leave it t

That for the learned I will leave it to paint
By their skillful turnings with language as quaint
But say All things seemed expression of bloom
In lovlier blendings than earth can assume
Not the unclosing petals of earth's waxen flow'r
But hallowed sweetness from pavement to tow'r
A life giving savor ennobling the soul
Infusing a peaceful and happy control
Encompassed around saw now thrifty trees
Whose pliable branches bowed to the breeze
And sent on their fragrance in soothing regale
Down green velvet slope to the river's calm vale
Which we had cross'd over but know I not how
Except that our feet cut the waves as a plough
But swift was our march through it we soon pass'd
As light seem'd our bodies at times shadows cast
Now city and tree travers'd o'er by the the eye
Led on to where tranquilly bended the sky
The white still the white of the new fallen snow
The green was the green of the world here below

—" —" —" —" —" —" —" —" —"

Now a genial splendor vivified in light
Had something in it that assisted our flight
For we seemed to glide now rather than walk
And the powers of vision diminished talk
For beautiful beings here to and fro pass'd
Amid the surroundings made lovely contrast
Their faces to me gave encouraging hope
That there was deliv'rance from sins weary grope
Approaching the city gay flowers appear'd
Such as mortal man with his love never rear'd
As wave impels wave so in garden and row
Extended their varied colors in blow

{ plants
And budding and fruit bearing shrubs, ivy and ^
More than the romantic of mind ever paints
And vineyards and orchards arose on the view
All finer and better than I ever knew
And on fascinated by forthcoming charms
The exaltation of excellence that warms
The lover of beauty and perfect designs.
To whom the magnificent ever inclines
{ grandest
The grandeur was grand and grander and ^
Yet superiority not manifest { poor
As the pomp of the rich ~~and~~ the skill of the ^
That the eye of the pilgrim on earth must endure
But as choicest flowers where all are the best
The large and the small in the gardener's breast
By equal provision in his tender care
And "prettier each by the others being there"

— " — " — " — " — " — " — " — "

A house we now enter'd from the city apart
A magnetic influence pierced my heart
And sorrowing regrets penetrated with pain
Swift coursing the system and thrilling in ^ { veins
{ stair
Ascending bright flights of polished wide ^
Was open'd in a room and heaven was there
The impressive glory could not have endur'd
{ assured
But for thoughts of my youth by Richard ^
That it was unspotted in sensual views
And the agony did in this memory lose
And joyed my heart in this minor excuse
Interposing between the after abuse { me set
While these thoughts were crowding he seat for
The glow of his countenance I tremblingly met
And yearned to divine his thoughts from his eye
But the consultation did effort deny

Then the years I retrac'd to the wonderous ways
In which he could clothe in glorious arrays
The earnest of faith in the service of God
In burnished symbols of conquering word
Now his beaming presence overwhelm'd my soul
Together with conscience's bitter control
But he smil'd on my face and my blood grew warm
And bounded as the cataracts wildest alarm
As God to the Universe he felt to my life
Invading correcting and taming its strife
And as to alleviate sorrows that crush'd
Introduced the subject on which my thoughts rush'd
Of Earth's Union Village when it first began
In forest where the deer and the wild vines ran
And the congregation which he commanded
Between the Miamis and the Shakers there landed
Believ'd now that Richard observing my state
Began through compassion these things to relate
To bring back my youth in its promising light
For he refered to it as pure and bright
With it came the ardor and love for his name
And his easy eloquence seemed the same
As when palpitated my heart at its sound
Proclaiming that yet would I Arwah be found
On that sacred ground for salvation and peace
And that the knowledge of God there would increase
Till as free as the skies that cheer with their blue
Or welling up waters that ever are new
Illumined his face with satisfied show
Narrating events that we both knew below
And the unreserv'd friendship his spirit distill'd
My being with unbounding happiness fill'd

"It was Union Village already I knew
In which I inhaled the sweet air, I drew
Through now vigorous lungs that quicken'd the heart
So long enfeebled and languid in start
"Knew this Union Village was planned the same
As that on the earth in large family claim
And the ruling elder of one of these was
This raptur'd my soul with ectatic applau

— " — " — " — "

"I now thought of friends dearest long reap'd from the earth
My mother came first she of most precious worth
Inquiring for her he respectfully said
"The ranks of the just she has faithfully led
"In th, family where is my lot to preside
From her penetration no evil can hide
She liv'd in this city before here I came
But she like yourself would prefered my nam
"All here make selection of whom to obey
And from their allegiance seldom break away
But change can be made by a mutual consent
Your mother in union her steps with us bent
"For when I arriv'd here by crowds I was met
Larger than the mobs that on earth us beset
Th, Ministry then for us fam, ly provided
And over my old friends, gain I presided
"Where flowed our spirits together on earth
Will seek for that union in the second birth
My congregation so dear to me there
Have rechosen me and are my people here
"Have made me their teacher again at their hea
But often by their ministration I'm led
Our Mother Ann Lee was plac'd in command
By her faithful foll, were coll'd her chosen band

Your relatives flocked to me in the day
And as then congenial so we are to-day
The harmonious in spirit are kindred here
And not generation from the bud to the sere
The unantagonistic become as the rill
That glides the smooth pebble and winds the rough hill
Through noiseless its course with its mission in view
It cannot be foiled what e'er may accrue
The heirship of heaven is not pompous life
But he who is able to conquer his strife
The meekest on earth in Jewish tradition
Was Moses the Lawgiver in his contrition
When God through sufferings had brought him to be
Leader of Israel in its extremity—
All souls must be humbled and mortified down
Ere they can inherit the immortal crown

— " — " — " — " — " — " — "

He pausing I asked for Silas my son
Silas your son in our family is one
The thoughts that now flash'd were like shootings of fire
Clasp him to my breast the, all quenching desire
That ruddiest of boys as I saw him last
For image in manhood was not on me cast
I thought not of man but the boy with kite strung'd
In the thickening snow at my call coming bright
And the way when looking that his father did flee
But for storm and the forest him could not see
Then pray'd the father with the son in his view
That this dear acquaintance again might renew
Now mov'd Richard's bosom with majestic swell
And spoke as a father who wishes one well
Our partial relations we must bid farewell
They come in the programme of what we must tell

"My children of earth in this city are all
Yet one of them only comes forth at my call
Silas' mother in this city resides
But not in the family where my counsel guides'
"In anguish I cry'd 'Can my Silas I see'
'Here is not our homestead' he answered me
"And you are not able more glory to view
Till the 'Valley of Achor' you have pass'd through,'
I fell at his feet now and sorrow'd my soul
And I would that a veil could cover me whole
To iniquity hide or somewhat to dim
And be transformed to myself and to him
"The severing edges of keenest reproach
To thoughts to multiplying applied their touch
And in the tumultuous reel of the mind
Such gloomy reflections as these did unwind
'In the grave with my body are not my sins
But th, leprous eruptions that this life begins
The carnally minded' they comprehend not
The things of the spirit' by purity taught
"The Ethiopian can he change his skin
Or th, Leopard his spots his since his life has been
Can he then accustom'd to evil do well
Can a life's transgressions be ever dispel'
"These apprehensions did my heart heavy swell
And toll'd on my conscience like funeral knell
Until I wished that I might be consum'd
Or into forgetfulness ever entomb'd
"I now wept aloud at the sight of my soul
The dread panorama that there did unroll
The perverted tendencies there holding seat
And my inability the conflict to meet

From bodily ills to be freed joy'd my heart
Yet in those of my mind I held a dear part
But I vow'd a vow now to violence take
And this strong hold within not to vindicate
And raising my head from the floor where laid
And trembling in every mussell I said
I am sick of my sins can you hear me through
Though they've went with me as the breath that sways
The messengers of God found me bound in sin
And taught if sin was put out good would come in
So answering my question Richard he said
And for me I knew by his look that he pray'd
These messengers of God of whom he now spoke
With the reverenc'd beauty that in it awoke
Brought back recollections of their earnest lives
And their precious teachings and wisdom revives
And now with these beautiful lives on my view
Once more I repeated "Can you hear me through"
He answer'd alluding to man's fallen state
And longer postponing I tried not to wait
And the void in my life ever eluding my will
This honest confession did blissfully fill
This "Valley of Achor" a door of sweet hope
Did into the prophetic promises ope
Though weaker in body I grew all the while
Exposing the deeds that a man can defile
I know not how long was this cleansing of me
Knew not the calender of eternity
But know that I wish'd to be purged from sin
And not to draw back while a stain was within
I think I had seasons of repose meantime
In restless unconsciousness of either clime
A now showing quick pain he vanished from sight
Like vapor that mingles and goes with the light
Susanna then turns to the sky contemplate
And meditates long on the hereafter state

—"—"—"—"—"—"—"

Susanna entering saw a silver light
Sailing in her room like a star clear and bright
Ere long it enlarged to a manly mein
And th, features and form of her father were {seen
The finer and paler and happier seem'd {teem'd
Than eer she had seen him and his count, nance
As though in expectancy of something new
And deeper and deeper th, anxiety grew
Repeating he said I will tell you the rest {was
When I was in convent, ring confessions fierce
That weaker and weaker my body did grow
Until like an infant in this vale below
And that it was lifted and tended with care
The weight of my body my feet could not bear
Think I was unconscious the most of the time
While being restor'd from the bruises of crime
I know not the weeks nor the months that I lay
In sickness and soreness from sins of the clay
But Richard was often beside I knew {I drew
And from him inspiration and healing
But twas Calvin Morrell who tended my bed
Administering what my appetite fed {nor food
Not th, stomach that thirsteth and hungers
But an installation of that which is good
Infusing a warmth imbibed in the soul
Of lenitives soothing and comforting whole
And then invocations my spirit it breath'd
In offerings grateful for what it receiv'd
But these intervals were of short duration
And easily relaps'd in earthly meditation
And then bewilder'd and lost soon would be
Nor knew not of earth nor of eternity

"Sometimes I seem'd rous'd or awaken'd from sleep
When strength of attention it was hard to keep
Sometimes I was wakeful but tangled in mind
When nothing was definite nothing defin'd
"At last I was raised and stood on my feet
I said to the doctor "Am I not complete—
Are not my faculties renewed entire
And passion can no more burn in them as fire
"My sins leave no shadow but seem borne away
As we read in scripture of atonement day
Of sins to the land of forgetfulness borne
On the head of a goat that would never return
"Confession of sin will exhaust by degrees
The animal stimulous pregnant with disease
And will in exhaustion the progeny waste—
Until the identity is all eras'd
"To the land of forgetfulness as you may say
Be borne as the vapor in Pheobus' ray
Our sins when confessed will never return
To their guilty eyes on our memory burn""

* * *

"Now came three sisters in the room where we were
Noiseless and radiant and happy and fair
With raiment in arm disclosing new suits
And Richard he rises and each one salutes
"Then said "These are dear ones see" turning to me
"They've come to fit you with the clothes that you see
My sister Susanna I now saw was one
A stranger and she soon measuring begun
"With majestic mien and a sweet lofty face
Benevolence painting each amiable grace
Was she who young ventur'd the perilous chase
With my brother William in the Adamic race

"To Richard Susanna now handed a suit
An the three disappeared quickly and mute
Then Richard inviting to bathing room led
Where the raiment he handed "to put on" he said
"And when I was washed and refreshed by the bath
Away shone before me in luminous path
But soon animation and lightness in flight
Of untamed manhood when life was delight
"Elated my blood for pursuit and a steed
And the prize of my eyes that the swift hounds treed
Through fresh windy wilds of the Miami's roll
This thought it reflected a shade on my soul
"And op'ning and closing the door to return
I dreaded lest Richard this thought would de-cern
But pleasantly rising and leading the way
He said "We have a family meeting to-day
"And when you are firmer & able to bear
When the families combine you can be there
Though now you are purg'd from the actions of sin
Yet the nature of evil is still strong within
"The cross of the Saviour is the discipline
By which we the eternal riches can win
Resisting temptations though seemingly slow
The fruits of the spirit in due time will grow
"A true Israelite a straight course will steer
With idols of bondage will not interfere
The promis'd inheritance keeping in view
Will conquer to where is the life ever new
"From the primitive type death lies in man's fall
And which is transmitted to us one and all
And blindly is multiplied weights to the soul
Until in the power of sins full control

We must overcome by cross bearing and pray'r
As our blessed Saviour on earth did declare
The same daily cross and unceasing pray'r
If with him the joys of redemption would share
Man has on the earth through malarious clime
Unreasoning sought for perpetual prime
But ~~'neath~~ its sin & death poison in life
And death and existence holdeth there strife
When nothing within us harbors to sin
The kingdom of heaven can then usher in
And eternal life is renewing the soul
Over sin over death here is the control
The hundred fold promised is here reveal'd
The mystery of happiness is unseal'd
A fullness of glory man's heart ne'er conceiv'd
While in sin and its nature still unrepriev'd

———— " ———— " ———— " ————

Now having ascended to the level height
And saw Union Village o'erspreading the sight
Grandeur inexpressible greeted the thought
And wond'ring conjectures how it could be wrought
For it was a city but not as earth's build
For gardens and orchards and vintage it tills
In emerald were landscapes and bright cheerful glades
And green fringing forests with sheltering shades
Each family presented a Village alone
In large ample buildings and grounds of its own
Divided at distance with what it possess'd
Provision for convenience my thought there address'd

———— " ———— " ———— " ———— " ———— "

Now entered a street as clean as the snow
Where particles mingled emitting a glow
And facing each side a family appear'd
With glittering mansions stupendously rear'd

Already I knew that the city was plann'd
In th, equal divisions that justice demand
And that each family to its taste arrang'd
When no individual anything chang'd
But that when conditions made changes a need
In union of effort all then were agreed
For flowed together their spirits as one
Over antagonism their work was done
Having pass'd these farms lea that sent out a zone
Or some living substance pervading the whole
Till steering between them was hard to effect
For forces of purity thought would detect
Before us now notic'd as rainbows in air
Or prismatic glances changed here and there
Expanding then closing and beckoning the eye
To rich tinted flashes gleaming to the sky
And that in those splendors a family was veil'd
And that ensigns as flags there floated and sail'd
And that the buildings in dimention were round
And blooming like pictures then curiously wound
When we reach'd here Richard smil'd I thought at th, show
Of the profusion or superlative glow
The houses look'd new fresh in polish and strong
Yet to bygone ages knew they did belong
For they had expression that this did impress
Were eastern in structure I ventur'd to guess
And that oriental denoted the clime
In which these colors first opened in time
Their lustrous diffusions seem'd rul'd by the sun
By its willed power their brilliancy won
For when it rolled beneath the covering clouds
Only the serene atmosphere there enshrouds

Again touch'd by sun flash'd the domes to the skies
Magnetical lightning that startles our eyes
Engraved or imag'd were they in flower
Preferring to those that twineth in bower
And heav'd floral spaces in variegate row
Fresh bud and deep blossom as strong paints bestow
And bushes and trees there with fruit heavy hung
Such as birds of our home ne'er pick'd at and sung
Alternate meanwhile survey was divided
Between the two ⁘ families and provided
The eye all observant of glories that shown
Perpetually changing some duplicate come
In each was high lifted artesian well streams
As mirrors in sunshine so glittering their gleams
Form'd in ornamental fountains erect
And finer than Italian chisels project
Now turn'd observation far onward in view
And on the same street we were traveling too
Beam'd golden hued shafts transcendently bright
In swift shooting currants as electric light
From two families there through avenues green
Of beautiful shade trees in loveliest scene
Whose fragrant aroma perfumed the air
And breezes a past us the sweetness did bear
And with eye encompassing glancing around
Extending the prospect as to endless bound
Came out like the twinkling stars to the sight
Of the firmament clear in a fair summer night
The families appearing fast in their glow
Augmenting in brightness till vivid did show
And each by distinguishing radiance known
As countenances differ but change not their own

⁘ Two families seemed facing on the streets
throughout the city or in the parts that he saw

"Now thought I. Now all is not the whiteness of driven snow
As seemed to my gaze in the valley below
Confused as pictures that painteth the pane
In zero on our windows in intricate chain

"And where my impression descrying the scene
On the lofty eminence in cloudlet screen
Were of Angels shrouded in rapturous gleam
Like those left in mem'ry that visit in dream

"And where cupolas and frosty white spires
In straight lined limits as telegraph wires
Presenting themselves in a spotless serene
Of snowy devices celestially clean

"But fallen since then have the "scales" from my eyes
A type of our sins to my thought this implies
And like Saul of old too can see the bright day
Had an Ananias his hands on me lay

"Now turning the street on left side I espy
Where burnished mansions are towering high
And feel a heart coming in full manly prime
A great friendly heart that blessed me in time

"And turning to Calvin I hurriedly said
"Who lives in that fam'ly and pointing ahead
Though miles be the distance I feel its control
Arise dearest mem'ries that on our thoughts roll"

"Elder Mathews fam'ly its laurels there spread
""He said with a smile and a look there sped"
"On earth Matthew Houston who stories would tell
That often the oppressor's moods would dispel"

"Why is my brother William not living there
With Matthew his elder on earth neath his care
And whom he there loved as no other one
That traveled its shades or that viewed its sun"

"And thus answered Richard leading the way
Averting his head and beginning to say
You think that because he accompanied me
Through highways and wilderness hunting for the
"That he is a member of my family
'Twas cause he's a medium of the first degree
Had I been alone me you could not have seen
For the vail of the flesh that standeth between
"So our missionaries to the earth must be
Of those who possess this gift naturally
A medium on earth though he knew it not
Though knew many cures that by some means he wrought
"Was your brother William when dweller in time
But is Mathew's deacon in this spirit clime
Calvin's a medium as doctors should be
They understand cases intuitively
"But Issachar Bates is chief medium here
The lower world wandereth finding out where
Are souls full prepared the truth to embrace
And brings them to Mathew and me for a place
"We seldom traverse terrestrial domain
Where man's strongest passions still guideth the rein
We are not mediums we have other gift
The penitent mourners their spirits we lift
"But pleasant it is still to go through the earth
'Mid springtime promise or harvesting worth
The melody still is sweet to my ear
Of chirping birds' voices fearless and clear
"The bud opening orchards damp with the dew
Do still like to journey their long isles through
And have the attention of murmuring brook
Call'd the direction the birds' passage took

And onward in prospect to grazing slope led
Where the farmers' flocks are counted and fed
And close nipped grass discloses bright rill
Where the favor'd herds can drink to their fill
Are still sweet to me in autumn or spring
And many dear mem'ries along with them bring
The game in the forest th, fish in the wave
Th, foxes sly cunning his interest to save
The wilderness too that seem'd to unfold
Unregister'd hist'ry plaintively told
Raising my thoughts meditative in clay
On reasonings gilt wings that soar'd high away
And thus on her pinions ascending in sail
With thoughts fiery bright as th, comet's red trail
All the inspiration was that I knew
Till born of th, spirit and th, new breath I drew
I gave not support to vision in time
In my latter years when gone was my prime
Though foretaste of heaven my spirit had rapt
That from sensual pleasure appetite sapt
And when the most honor'd in fames bril— light blush
The strongest in action the bravest to rush
Caught up in a moment and saw in a glow
What was of more value than all things below
(Twas) The glory of Mother her love display'd
(Which) The sun at meridian hour would fade
Her hand reach'd to me (and) the clearness of her voice
(That) Settled forever my unwavering choice
But made persecution a vengeful foe
Wreaking anathemas on me below
Pursuing my path and darkening my name
Previous honors transforming to blame

Yet the defamation of which they made use
Th, misrepresentation for an excuse
My faith to extinguish me to annoy
Thy new revelation to wholly destroy
But strengthen'd my strength the world to forego
The veil or cov'ring of sin forth to show
Gave needed vigor boldly to declare
That th, life of th, flesh would to bondage ensnare

—" —" —" —" —" —" —"

We journey'd for you because in your youth
I turn'd you from Zion when you sought th, truth
But father and friend in th, future would be
If you still maintain'd your sincerity
This promise I made or thus did engage
Advising to go and return when of age
And if willing then to enter the strife
Of giving up all for eternal life
Then yours was the kingdom its joys its peace
With an augmenting and endless increase
But you were not call'd then else you had come
The father now calleth you to come home"

—" —" —" —" —" —" —"

Meanwhile Richard talked my eyes often stray
To th, winsome proportions at Mathews portray'd
Where vines blooming swayed as vivid in hue
As streaks of the morning sparkling on the dew
Showed the buildings diversified faces
Though had th, agreement that harmony traces
The eye at each turning there cometh to view
Scenery that bears recollection yet new

The vineyards are heavy and orchards with fruit
The gardens' variety offers to suit
The dooryards' spacious with flower imprinte
Bright gemmed in sward plots or climbing in { tints
A generous diffusion specifically bears
Intrinsic good will and a cheerfulness wears
An invitation each object expresses
Of the dominion the fam:ly possesses
Now faintly heard music of instrument so
According with voices of sweet singers oft
The hallow'd devotion the symphony bore { stor
Instant cours'd me through as from love's deep
I felt they were worshipping Israel's God
Repeating his promises sounding abroad
The tones of their purity started my tears
Fraught in the true echoes that wholly reveres
The dear name of Mother thou quickend th strai
And seem'd to wind the aerial main
And cries for deliverance finding it there
From the weary of earth in message of pray
Now luminous splendors in the air unfurl'd
That never beam'd count,nance in this lower w
A thought of sweet incense came into my mi
In the time that these lights across the air shi
And light upon light increased in folds
Till reaching the realms where the Sun his rule h
I thought that these splendors from the Church { might
As beacons or tokens of known brilliancy
Wherewith, fam: lies at certain periods combine
And here reach'd radiuses of luminous sign
That through circulated the familiar whole
As dictates of conscience pervadeth the soul

Conjectur'd the Ministry there might hold seat
And these were their wishes in swift winged fleet
And read in their movements a telegraph dot
Can tell to its pupils what others know not
Now came to a pavement from gate to gate laid
'Tween Mathew's and Richards with gold border & stayd
In count as th, centre and finest ~~of~~ guildings
Of th, inexpressible beautiful buildings
A child with a flower stood at the gate
Itself as sweet blooming and as delicate
Giveth, flower to Richard when entering in
And asking him questions of where he has been
Then taking his hand along with him glides
On the broadest walk with gold bordered sides
And followed after the doctor and I
While Paradise glory deckd all beneath ~~[illegible]~~ the sky
Now stepped the doctor where eddying breeze
Sported in ripples that our fancy would please
In every inclosure modelled by art
Where an artezian fountain its waters impart
There circles of lillies as spotless as snow
("The emblems of angels" I thought in their blow)
Were leaning their beautiful heads to the flow
And Calvin some training on them does bestow
Enraptured the yard in vernal fresh bloom
Inhaling the fine aromatic perfume
The walks brightly winding and smooth as the glass
Were closely up edging the green tender grass

And gemmed with blossoms as jewelry set
The eye in bright clusters delightfully met
And petals depending all glossy and fair
From wreathe crowned trellis stirring in the air
No evil did appear as time's ruptured sod
No waning of flowers in wither or pod
But one living bloom solely charmed the eye
And then I remember'd "Here nothing does die"
I notic'd the families had in contrast
One centre building that the others surpass'd
We were in the yard of the largest one here
Yet only distinguish'd in size did appear
I counted the mansions seven on each side
That fence and a dooryard of space did divide
All larger were these than I e'er saw in time
And beamed in effulgence of the sublime
Their fronts were of white ornamented in gold
And cornice and window and door did unfold
What never on the earth my eyes did behold
Of elegant symbols so beautifully roll'd
On all that the eye would contemplative turn
It seemed had a sense our taste to discern
And then emanation satisfying in this
Conferred entirely to our fullest wish
The plan of th, mansions ⁂ seemed of one architect
Signalizing minutely the whole prospect
And that the same pattern on each he did lay
When came from his model the matchless array

⁂ At Richards' family

Each house had its belfry glowing with the light
Each had its tall spires all glittering bright
The guildings of each scintillating in the sun
As arrows of lightning the skies swiftly run
Each yard had its artegian fountain or stream
The sun on whose waters seem'd impartial to beam
In the decorations the yards 'peard the same
In species of flower 'in a concord came
With glance perspicacious scanning further view
Of what in the back grounds invitingly drew
Instinctive it seemed the eye of the mind
To the foliage there in beautiful wind
The gardens and orchards and vineyards in gay
Allured my senses their beautiful way
And reaches beyond them enchanting in green
Of lawns and hedges forest and glades between
Where the sky looked through as eyes to view their side
And winketh the direction or somehow bide
And there is a river broad rolling of might
Illumined in billows majestic to sight
Now Calvin beside me in the centre road pav'd
Beneath verdant vines that gracefully wav'd
And bending our way to a bright door ajar
Emitting such life as a clear twink-ling star
I said ere we reach'd there "My mother lives here
O that I could see her one word from her hear"
"She knows of your coming" pathetically said
We ent'ring the passage that inwardly led

{heart

And on 'mid resplendence that flutter'd the ^
Unutterable all in beauty of art {size
Till in a room standing more spacious in
Than Solomon's Temple the great and the wise
By Calvin seated ruminating in thought
On the experience that here had me brought
be
And bounding within me the joy that might ^
Of seeing my mother and she blessing me
As electric quivers that quickens the air
Advanced vast columns radiant and fair
Of Angels redeemed and filled with light
And shining in raiments of vestments all white
And faced in ranks Richard spoke to the crowd
Then anthem was raised low and sweet not loud
{note
And at fitting measure there came blending ^
From music instrument sounding remote—
'Gain Richard admonish'd of hope in the faith
Reminding of old times in much that he saith
And when he had finished "Now we will march"
He said And ring beside ring formed in arch
In th' centre the singers occupied th' floor
And struck up an air never heard on this shore
The worshippers stepp'd to its notes two abreast
And eclips'd joy their faces express'd
By impression known on the earth 'twere ne'er sung
But only had been by the angel hosts sung
My ear could not follow in thought with the ring
A power consuming the effort did bring

When three of these ended which I could not learn
So faint I became that my eyes could not turn
And hand gave to Calvin for indication
That I was too gross for th, holy relation
And then he arose to the singers gave sign
And from James Mc Nemar did willingness shine
He started a hymn in time called his own
This in the movements of his mind were made known
Now sing it Susanna for me low and clear
That its ministration again may me cheer
I started
"The Angels are sounding on their golden trumpets
They sound and resound through the heavens above"
She sung the hymn thus

The Hymn

1 The angels are sounding on their golden trumpets
They sound and resound from the heavens above
Inviting all nations all kindreds and people
To come come to Zion and wander no more

2 The trumpets are sounding the dead to awaken
Awake and arise from your slumbers and come
O come all ye weary forlorn and forsaken
The Lord has prepar'd for his people a home
3 O come to the city of the New Jerusalem
The bright shining City of God and the Lamb
Where saints and Arch-angels and glorified spirits
Are now sounding praises to the Great I A M

4 Jehovah we praise thee with joy overflowing
The light of thy glory is shining around
Surrounding thy throne are thy bright armies glowing
While Zion's preparing her trumpets to sound

5 Lo when she ariseth with strength as a lion
And thousands of angels with her shall go forth
Then many shall flock to the standard of Zion
While God's solemn warnings shall roll through the earth

6 The Lord will be fear'd as our God and Creator
And thousands and thousands shall listen with awe
Their eye shall be turn'd to the great Mediator
When God sendeth forth from Jerusalem his law
7 Then peace love and joy like the dew of the morning
Shall fill every mountain and valley and plain
O happy are they who accept of the warning
For as in the hollow of his hand they remain

8 The meek and the lowly shall share in his pity
His blessings shall fill them with undying joy
To them he will open the bright golden city
Where anthems of praises her millions employ"

"When they their hymn ended then a pause ensu'd
And inward reflection seem'd the gen'ral mood
I wondered if they in thought were in time
Or drawing fruitions from still higher clime
Now came piercing words from sisters and brethren
Testimonies of faith enjoyments of heav'n
Though most sweetly spoken th, refinement was pain
Because so exalted 'bove my languid gain
"To labor prepare in the step manner dance"
Announc'd Glided in place as th, glitters of lance
The bright shining Angels celestial and pure
Of Elysian bliss giving evidence sure
And turning in rows long and strait side by side
Waved as the wheat or the sickle is plied
Their force in the songs felt as winds far appear
Stronger giving warning will be coming near
In figures of 8 they now marched a song
And changing of symbols diversed the throng
Stepping to the music in beautiful form
Such as on the earth did in youthful glow warm
Now brightened brighter than times orb above
A mantling suffusion of Jehovah's love
Each countenance kindling emotional there
And soon to the wall circling seats they repair
"From Jehovah's throne comes the refulgence bright"
Methought was when pour'd in the powerful light
The air magnetic to awakened sense
Beyond that so thrilling at our first entrance

Mother Ann now came in with song in her voice
I knew she was Mother for all did rejoice
"My love I freely give my blessing do receive
'Tis holy and pure and forever will endure" &c
"Her song has been sung in time's vale" struck my mind
Through time and eternity seemed to find
Her tender affection each child of her name
And her love so boundless in it they all came
Earth's Union Village it seemed ascended
And mingled there until Mother's songs ended
She sung many verses which I cannot tell
Though all she repeated I then knew full well
I mean that I then understood what she said
Could follow her words with the music that play'd
She then spoke of her children of earth and heav'n
Us'd Christ's similitude of the little leav'n
Now uprose Issachar Bates from his seat
A radiance from Mother beam'd on him sweet
"On the sands of Miami I found there a soul"
He said "Shelter'd in thickets watching its roll
"I saw that he hunger'd for a better state
And soon between us commenced a debate"
Then told the man's suff'rings but I cannot wait
That solemn experience now to relate
How he had wander'd seeking Israel's God
And coming to churches that him did applaud
And tried to persuade him that he was a saint
But vague were their doctrines insipid and faint

"Still moved by ardent and restless desire
For some culmination pointing up higher {shore
Brought him to that tangled and hermit like
Traveling its valleys and fertile plains o'er
"To learn of the brilliant M. Lemar who wrote
To him "lines" in Georgia a land then remote
In whom to find couns'ler with cloudless fore{sight
To lead him through fire to mansions of light"
"Take care of my son" Mother said as she turn'd
And left from her count'nance his duty discern'd
Bowed Richard assent again to attend
That one on the earth whom he tried to befriend
"When Issachar talk'd Mother's thoughts lighted {love
And tenderness such as our lives never move
But my dull language is too lagging and weak
Of that heavenly Mother's glory to speak
"She was the first power in those realms of bliss
The Mother of mothers in that world and this
Her love felt an essence that healeth all ills
All need satisfies still and desire all fills
"Wherever she looked did comforting beam
Suffuse there that son or that daughter the {gleam
She was not a goddess from mystical throne
The good of her children was her joy alone
"When her songs she sung her eyes she passed round
And me with the others her tenderness found
Her look of approval to me in that ring
I thought should uphold me through everything

When Mother had gone they assembled in ranks
Sung praises to her for her gospel gave thanks
Then closing address them went as they came
Brighter than fiery sparks emitted from flame
Soon brethren returned and hands with me shook
A welcome address'd me a welcome did look
In majesty full James McNemar with smile
Observed "Old friends will meet once in a while"
"There came Elder Issachar friendly to me"
"You still love the brethren if right my eyes see
You love Union Village the old mobbed plot
Where Michal and his Angels hard battles fought
"God was on our side there defending that soil
The dragon's fierce wrath can it no more despoil
More precious to me is that old battle ground
Than any green spot the Revolution e'er found"
"And while I was wondering "Why should he be here"
A glance he shot on me as the noonday clear
He saw that I thought of his home in the East
And said "I would be here though one of the least
"They took me back East with my kindred to die
Though against my wish to have them round me cry
But when with the body at last I got through
Then straight to the west my spirit it flew
"For dearer to me was my "offspring of soul"
Than that of my body I ne'er could control
For my children west though I travel'd in ice
Till came it compell'd yet I count not the price

"I fifed in the Revolutionary war
Till gushed the blood from my ears with the jar
But ne'er have been sorry I did not retain
More of selfish vigor in either campaign
"I preach Mother's gospel abroad in this world
And meet ugly shafts from the wicked ones hurl'd
For here persecutors will rage out their time
Or while deprav'd tendencies do league with crime
But the sure coin is found is known by its ring
This gold of Ophir to the Lord's house we bring
The face of Jehovah the true can abide
But from the pure brightness the wicked will hide"
My mother now came a swift angel of light
Her glance my soul warmed as the sunshine bright
"A mother in Is'rel" she solemnly said
Is more than your mother her little ones led"
(Meantime that she spoke I observed her look
Her purifi'd nature me inwardly shook
Her chaste penetration saddened my soul
Although 'twas a mother's tenderest control
Florid and tall and light and auburn her hair
And her English accents of tone sounded were
And evidenced still that confident mein
Which may in that nation so often be seen)
Full raising her large liquid eyes of clear blue
She searchingly said "Nought will do but the true
Wherein we have strayed from duty where plac'd
By work must persist till the evil's eras'd

""Good work" was your motto on the earth below
And what you did sow there your harvest will show
The tares you must meet there that in your crop grew
And take from the grain whether many or few
""To earth must go back and there right all your wrongs
And garner your substance to where it belongs
And through the earth toiling though unseen repay
All that you have bargain'd from others away
""The debt on the mother of your children brought
You've suffered that out in anguish of thought
Still there is a duty in which she's concern'd
That yet for righteousness sake must be unturn'd
""Death will not relieve us from unfinish'd work
Of justice to others where'er we may lurk } won
Through earth's weary realms must search till is ^
Forgiveness of every injustice done
""The spirit can gain over souls in the clay
By constant devotion of right night and day
Through fervent repentance a pardon obtain
Where bitterest fueds long smouldering have lain
""Sometimes you have heard said Once I fully thought
I ne'er could forgive certain memories brought
Of the recollections of old neighbour — —
Whose meanness for pay-day I watch'd to come out
"But now I forgive him the injuries are gone
Could gladly salute him as oft I had done
And friendship's dear bond of affection un- ^ winde
The incidents sweet that prosperity finds

In the visions of hope that light on the mind
In youthful endeavors exalted and kind
When genial is the spirit and cheerful the heart
Ere "vile lucre's" avarous casts his wounding dart
When the cause is removed will cease the effect
And peace be restored in every respect
As we have just cited of the neighbor —
And similar instances the mind comes about
You have an instinct to know of the weather
And could you influence another to gather
Some crop that would damage say by coming rain
Thereby what was saved would be to your gain
And so by close watching care in his interest
Are accumulations for you to invest
In your savings bank of increase in heaven
That swells your storage as the little leaven
And kindled in kindness his thoughts will revert
To your cleansed pages ere you did him hurt
Offenses are vanish'd no evil he sees
The records are fair as the bloom of the trees
And then you can go to another likewise
To work out your debt there a way must devise
To toil with his toiling with him take the brunt
To shield him from ill luck that would confront him
And thus must continue until heavy weight
You weigh in the ballance of terrestrial freight
That nought may remain in your count of scurvy
Towards any one to again on you prey

“You've not worn the signet of cruelties mark
For many enormities wrought in the dark
Where lingering periods have numberless thrust
In lower gradations than worms of the dust
“But your debts are heavier than you expect
For every incentive must conscience inspect
That led to the least that was more than your own
These intricate dealings to you will be known
“And when you have finish'd on earth in this way
Through desolate regions of spirits must stray
Extensions of darkness and meridian days
Through cities and through towns and thronged highways
“Through pebbled sands of the lengthening beach
And long colonnades where your comrades may reach
In their avocations as mimicing time
For their inclinations do not change with clime
“The sins of their bodies they try to repeat
Just as in the flesh would defraud and would cheat
The promptings of passion are practising still
That work in their members desire to fulfil
“Till heralding angels with trumpeting sound
Proclaim how the way of salvation is found
You know of this judgment you've pass'd its ordeal
Which all have to enter for woe or for weal
“As these on your prospect so you would be now
Except for the mercy of Richard's kind vow
His promise to you in the days of your youth
When innocence yearned in you for the truth

"The pardon of spirits you wronged in time
Will be harder conquest than in earthly clime
For they can behold you as plain as themselves
And then in the vortex of fell anger delves
"Because you appear in the dress you now wear
A sign of your progress to them 'twill appear
Arousing their envies and hatred the more
With thoughts of them equals on the mortal shore
"Afflict with annoyance your brightness to stain
Inflame imprecations in vilest disdain
Ally you as one of the basest to know
In exagerations exult mean and low
"They'll persecute you to the utmost extent
And humiliations will try to invent
A power to force that you yield to their will
To cause you to fall use their uttermost skill
"As one with earn'd honors his helmet displays
Is usher'd in battle where wars carnage blaze
Must meet there his enemies shaft as he may
O'ercharg'd by their power or conquer his way
"So your contestants you'll meet on the ground
To fall by their prowess or victor be found
Or else through beseechings their pardons obtain
Thus come from the verdict in triumphant gain
"When your wrongs you've righted and amity made
Your rectified evils can never more shade
Reflections of darkness on your future road
That leads to the heavenly happy abode

And into the the joys of your Lord you can come
Thus having the victory successfully won
His will for your labor make fullest amends
In your home eternal with redeemed friends"

Her soul teeming love and her eyes full of light
Her spirit illumined with strife for the right
Was my mother's presence now vanish'd my sight
But left in me purpose to fight the good fight

Now Calvin appear'd bidding me come away
His fatherly guidiance was joy to obey
A different direction he led from the first
And talk'd of new topics in which he was vers'd
The scriptures defined in much finer sense
Than the highest preachers in their eloquence
In pulpits of avarice and storied pane
Who preach for the pieces of which they obtain
Encouragment giving the way to pursue
In new phrases bringing the prophets to view
But narrating many events that I knew
And stronger and stronger my inward strength grew
Till I felt so vallient and buoyant of will
That I was all anxious my duty to fill
Again to enjoy the bliss I was leaving
Again with my guide his kindness receiving

As with fuller's soap my soul should be purged
Like our Lord and Saviour bear to be scourged
With my mother's counsel ~~the~~ willing [illegible] my mind
To these surrenderings felt wholly resign'd
Tho tedious presumed each pardon would come
Yet gain'd on my vision I could overcome
Though devious schemings from spirits to meet
Exerting their energies me to defeat
The spirits it was I now dreaded the most
To my apprehension a treacherous host
But would stand my ground and be not drawn in
My soul should be freed from every sin

The streets still as white as the new fallen snow
With particles mingled emitting a glow
The families appearing beyond to the sight
As far as this earth sinks her orb of day light
And colors distinctive transmitted their hue
In tints ne'er describ'd that the eye to them drew
And pleased as the smiles that gladden our hearts
Enjoying emotions that kindness imparts
These flushes the finest touch'd on our senses
Above what the mind in time e'er ~~[illegible]~~sses
In blendings the rarest supremely impress
With all that is promised of righteousness
A full satisfaction their influence brings
As the "Sun of Righteousness" with healing wings
The manifestations persuasive of rest
The transcending substance though is not expressed

How swift going angels as regents of trust
{ the seat
Through distance smoothly glided their look was
{ beam
They glow'd as the sunstreams his bright morning
Or cloudlet illumined sendeth its gleam
How vivid diffusion does me stimulate
From a passing brother who seeth my state
The tenderest feeling his look did imply
And prayerful emotions ascending on high
The currants of wind that pierces our face
Is the wind comprehended by its embraces
Tho we discern not whence its power gathers
It comes the same to be known where it enters
Tho calm be the climate of eternity
More searching its action than gales of the sea
It wholly pervadeth ~~the existence~~ all
In stronger relations than memories recall
Of earthly enjoyments in any phase
In their most enchanted or prosperous days
The signification of motives consent { present
Disclosing the substance the thought would
And is known by blendings read on the sight
As blendings of language tell wrong from the right
The realization of bliss infinite
Above the capacity of our mental sight
Each virtue and grace is seen on the sight
By colors distinguishing meanings unite
As letters in print reveals to the mind
The ideal objects their emblems confin'd

The spirit transparent has nothing to hide
Has traveled away from what cannot abide
The thoughts and intents of their beings appear
In colors of motion the purest and clear
Met many bright angels along on our way
Love color'd their looks that meant us "good day"
And some comprehending my imperfect state
Signal'd a valor to me enervate
And messengers met too returning from earth
Who blest me with blessings of undying worth
All powerful spirits with firmness of brow
And inward I promis'd "I will keep my vow"
Fresh courage to right all my wrongs did provoke
A deep burning fearlessness in me awoke
While impulses rushed to scenes on my mind
And sensations hurried my pardons to find
Now from swelled hill top o'er green rolling vale
And time's animation began to prevail
And now was return'd to the shore bare and cold
Where Richard and William found me weak and old

And Calvin now vanish'd and I was alone
On my meditation came one tearful moan
But I arose shortly and walk'd to and fro
And pondered how long would be my furlough

Then came to my mem'ry not far from these sands
When you were a child there and led by my hands
And where you outreasoned me with your will
And a hasty promise I had to fulfil
As "Coming events cast their shadows before"
So you pointed then to the eternal shore
Though so you saw in time then with your senses Kind
In the ~~the~~ supernatural now it is defin'd
See page 27th first part
"And then you can come and see us all three
Aunt Susanna uncle William and me
And we will be happy when we see you come"
This prefigured then our heavenly home
And so it may be that you three will be there
Before I have finish'd in pardon's warfare
Return to my home freed "and see you all three"
Susanna your aunt and your uncle and thee

You read Susanna of the strong and the brave
But your father's mind's like the rippling wave
That he be successful you fervently pray
The dictates of conscience and duty obey"

So saying departed streaming in light
As flickering torch traveling the night
And Susanna pray'd that the twinkling light
Would not leave his pathway but guide him aright
Very Respectfully
The Writer

SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 337

Autobiography of Susanna Cole
Liddell, Union Village, Ohio

miscellaneous pages 68, 91, 102-104,
434-437

So long as we're contented to linger on the way
So long we'll be prevented from making true headway

And when we're call'd to hasten and from the foe to flee
We stop to think a little and see propriety —
Our precious time we're wasting and falling in the rear
The enemy's approaching and we begin to fear

And when the battle rages cowardly we hide
Let others feel the burden and with the foe decide
Can we expect a blessing and portion with the brave
When ev'ry scheme we're taking Our carnal lives to save

Susanna's third song at fifteen years of age

I'm bound for the kingdom of eternal glory
And right straight ahead I will steer
I will make the sacrifice to obtain the heavenly prize
Prepar'd for the holy and pure
Myself I'll be denying Old nature crucifying
In humiliation I'll go
In lowliness increasing in purity progressing
Then Mother will own me I know

Susanna's last poem

The Seraph A vision (Published in the Shaker paper March 1877)

She came this bright seraph in haste o'er the lea
Her step seeming soft as the zephyr to me
Her visage; depicted the presence of youth
All brightly aglow with the mission of truth
T Got in the time of a spiritual awakening or revival

His mission was carrying ten books finish'd
To the Mother Church to there be presented
Of Benjamin S Youngs' Shaker book printed
His testimony to there be commented
"Remarkable signs in the heavens display'd
The morning before on this mission array'd
The full moon encompass'd by a great circle
Was reckond an omen to something foretell
With the flaming cross it bright intersected
Retaining its glow till all had inspected
And brought a conviction to opposers some
That "It may be their (Shaker) ressurection will come

"And now Susanna you read plain and loud
What Richard McNemar preach'd to the crowd
In view of the ressurection they (Shakers) saw
According to nature's premeval law
And then of the spirit from it let free
Ascending from carnal proclivity
And which he was pleased to turn into verse
The substance more easy there can rehearse

Her father arose with "Amen" to his feet
But ere he departed began to repeat
Commencements of poems and hymns of his youth
Saying at each closing phrase "That is truth"
His cane on the floor emphasizing meantime
As strengthening words to give heavier rhyme
Then pass'd out the door he was holding ajar
And she in her mind saw him walk away far

Some weeks after this he return'd to her room
When the sun's first ray through the pane reaching come
And taking the chair which she gave him before
Drew up to the window and 'gan to explore
Our landscape and tree tops in north western view
Bending and glistening in the night's cool dew
To the mist ascending of the dim thin blue
From the big Miami in cloud mingling here
"When nearly of age a fellow out yonder
Turned my thoughts in new channels to wander
He was a man in whom none ever trusted
But he reap'd gain and the other was worsted
(Showing the direction with finger and eye)
In me he made images fast multiply
Because Susanna it was rumored that
For she now your mother he had set his hat
"When saddled on horse to equestrian rule
He was like a dullard that should go to school
But things not then general he could array
Such as fine gentlemen are wont to display
Hard money he had but of principle void
And his getting your mother me it annoy'd

A woman I esteem'd her worthy and true
But to him objections kept rising anew
  She had a nature one liked to defend
The heavenly graces seem'd her to attend
To cherish and hold such valuable worth
Stood fairer than all the money of earth
And I became courageous pursuing this view
And my own improvement in union so true
And hop'd to live only to bless and to aid
And lay up a treasure in heaven I'd made
  While crowded my vision with cruelties low
Of what that pure woman would have to forego
If to that man wedded so mean and so coarse
His selfish enjoyments growing worse and worse
Her life borne down with sufferings unjust
Her outcome of labor as mildew and rust
For blasted was every effort of all
Who would with that man stand at honorable call
  At length these imaginings troubled my breast
Increasing in phantoms of tort'ring unrest
And though criticising his doings long strung
Yet ever returned just where we begun
Day after day and week after week thus pass'd
Leaving me floundering at this wretched mast
Contriving and planning with her how to meet
Or how to encounter a might be defeat
  At last one morning I leaped to the shore
To escape the discordant confused roar
Of this undetermined parleying crew
Suggestions proffering of what best to do
And spurred my horse over valley and hill
Yet weighed in drops of the dew calm and still

The pale red petals of the wild roses shed
Disturbed by the motion that our course led
"Till up to a thicket where vines hung before
Watch'd she your mother in and out of her door
I was a shy boy and from girls held aloof
And this kind of business with them my first proof
Neat in attire and steady in motion
Symmetrical in feature and proportion
I said And at this distance delicate shone
The bloom on her cheek as this morning's woods rose
"Fast friends were her favorite brother and me
Her brother Frank gen'rous as gen'rous could be
With all of her brothers had went now and then
And with them no strife nor unfairness had been
She went with my sister she talk'd of her much
And her conversation concerning her such
As trust encourag'd in fidelities bond
And over and over these acquaintences conn'd
"Having seen her brothers to work departed
And then her mother with her Bible started
I hitched my horse to the kitchen did walk
Her cheeks turned to peonies at my talk
The promise I gain'd of her future presence
Was to my heart what we read of sweet incense
Northerly I bought us a place in the wood { stood
And there built th, house in which our children first
"I was not working for the brethren here then
Much better for me if I only had been { hand
Not then came the greeting warm and friendly
The inspiring glance and the reasonings grand
Of Richard (McNemar) and others revolving to sight
The Kingdom of heaven and its glories bright

1891
18~~90~~ lve
* Now after over ten years dark inclosure Susanna
lifts her writings to the light with the venturesome
thought of trying their luck before the world But
first concluded to add a note in this connection a
making stronger her request for withholding her la
name in fear of disturbing the pride of some who be
the L— name

One of this name who knows more of the L— ge
ealogy than Susanna does writes her in a letter—

*** "The Le— came over to North Carolina in 174
after the troubles in the western high lands of Scotl
and following the battle at Culloden They were Sco
people who had followed the Pretender in his ef-
fort to regain the throne of England In this they
were on the losing side

When the Revolutionary War came on five of the
served in the Continental army. One of them was
killed in battle with the Indians, and another b
the Tories, Leaving three brothers who survived. Tw
of them were officers in Marions Cavalry from
South Carolina, and the other one was your grand
father William L—

The home stead of the two officers is near Abb
in S.C. where their pension was expended in plac
a stone over their grave

The descendants of these two brothers have becom
very numerous. and many of them remain scatte

ed throughout S.C. Miss. Ten. Ark La and Ala.

My branch of the family is descended from Andrew L. and his three sons. John, James and Moses L came to Miss. when it was a territory in 1798

John and James settled in North Miss. while Moses L removed to Wilkinson Co. Miss. and accumulated a fortune of about $ 80000= which was divided between his four children three daughters and one son W. John L— my father * * *

The descendants of James L— are prominent in in the country of the Yazoo. * * *

John L's— descendants, are in North Miss. and very numerous. One of his sons Andrew L. from the time he was a young man, made his home with my fathers family in La. He was for ten years Sheriff of Richland Parish; where he died this past January at the age of sixty four, respected and beloved by every one who knew him.

He told the writer about two years since, that he had over ninety relatives in Union county Miss. This conversation was only a short time after his return from a visit to them.

From your knowledge of the men of the family, you must know that they have the courage of their convictions and will not be surprised to hear that they were all in the Civil War in one way or another.

Andrew L. had three brothers who had just completed their collegiate courses when the war began. They entered the army and were all killed, One as Captain and the other two as Lieutenants. * * *

Francis M. L. was Colonel of the second Miss. infantry, had won his brigade commission but was killed at Malvern Hill in Va, at the head of his brigade

St John, R. L. — (educated at West Point) my father. * * * He entered the Confederate Army, won his brigade commission, and served through the Civil war.

He commanded the reserves at Perryville, the rear guard on the retreat from Ky. The extreme left at Murfreesboro or Stone river, the troops at Liberty Gap, the reserves at Chickamauga, and he and Cleburne checked Shermans pursuit of Braggs army at Tunnel Hill in Ga. He was in command of the eastern defence of Mobile bay, and was in command in person at Blakely when it was carried by assault on the day that Gen. Johnston surrendered. * * *

I served in the Confederate army in Va, and in Ten, being just twenty one when the war closed. While I did not serve in the same command with my father, I heard him say that the day before the battle of Chickamauga, there were nine of his name who came to his tent to see him and of that number seven were killed and wounded the next day; he and a young brother of mine, William L., were the only ones who escaped unhurt in the battle. Williams died of pneumonia that winter being about eighteen years old. * * *

The results of the Civil war lost us all fortunes which our ancestors worked for.

My father was on a visit to me in 1870 just prior to his death, and I think he spoke to me of having had a letter from you and of the relationship * * *

So with assurances of the best wishes and kindest feelings for you as a kinswoman I remain very truly and sincerely yours

M. J. L."

The guessed at letter spoken of above must have been from a postmaster to whom Susanna had written enquiring for L

SHAKER COLLECTION.

337 b